Wolverhampton
CHRONICLE

Thursday, January 19, 2017 | Read by more than 65,000 people | Price when sold 70p

CAR CRASHES INTO BILLY WRIGHT STATUE OUTSIDE MOLINEUX

Damage to the Billy Wright statue

THE iconic Billy Wright statue outside Wolves' Molineux stadium has been badly damaged after a car crashed into it.

The plinth on which the statue of the Wolves and England legend stands was ripped apart. A man has been arrested on suspicion of drink driving.

Three slate slabs have torn off the structure, including the panel that carries Wright's name which was smashed in two.

Vicky Wright, the daughter of the late player, said she was 'so sad' to hear about the statue.

She tweeted to say: "Man arrested after Billy Wright statue left badly damaged at Wolves' Molineux stadium. This has made me so sad."

Police have cordoned off the area with tape. A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Officers have arrested a man following a collision with a statue outside the Molineux Stadium on Waterloo Road, in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Widow

"A 30-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drink driving and dangerous driving."

He has now been bailed until next month pending further inquiries by police.

The 9ft bronze statue was unveiled in 1996 by Billy's widow Joy, who called it 'a wonderful work of art.' It is considered to be one of the finest football statues in the country. The sculpture depicts the former Wolves and England captain – who earned 105 caps for his country – leading out his team. He died in 1994, aged 70.

The campaign to raise a permanent memorial to the player was headed by Wolverhampton councillor Fred Ledsam. The £50,000 funding for the statue was raised by public subscription.

A plaque at the back of the tribute thanks 'the generosity of the people of Wolverhampton' and 'football fans everywhere.'

The statue is placed within a circle of slate that matches the pedestal. Around it are placed a series of small slate-clad pillars mounted with bronze cubes.

TRIBUTE

Tony Daley: My tears for Taylor

TONY DALEY admitted he had a tear in his eye as Wolves and Villa paid tributes to Graham Taylor at Molineux on Saturday.

Supporters from both clubs joined for an emotional minute's applause before kick off – and again in the 72nd minute, in recognition of Taylor's age when he died last Thursday.

Daley played under Taylor for three teams, Wolves, Villa and Watford, as well as England. Now Wolves' head of sport science and conditioning, Daley joined first-team coach Rob Edwards and ex-Villa man Mark Delaney, who both also played for Taylor, and FA technical director Dan Ashworth as wreaths were laid on the pitch.

● Visionary – Page 58

We feel we should do our bit, says council

100 REFUGEES TO SETTLE IN CITY

ONE hundred Syrian refugees will come to Wolverhampton under a Government-expanded resettlement scheme, with the first to arrive later this year. The city council has committed to taking in the refugees driven from the war-torn country over the next five years.

It is part of a Whitehall-led initiative called Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme which will see 20,000 refugees resettled in the country.

In Walsall, council bosses agreed to take in 20 over the 10 months since last July, while in Staffordshire 51 refugees have already been resettled.

A spokesman for Wolverhampton Council confirmed the authority would take in 100 refugees by 2020 under the scheme. It is planned that 20 refugees are resettled in the city each year, for the next five years.

Welcome

Council leader Roger Lawrence said: "I'd hope the refugees receive the traditional welcome people have historically when they arrive in this city from all across the world."

He said the number of refugees was worked out to reflect the size of Wolverhampton compared to the rest of the UK, which will take in the 20,000. The first group would arrive within the next three months.

"The Government has agreed to take in 20,000. Wolverhampton has about half of one per cent of the population of the UK, so 100 reflects our size. We feel we should do our bit. The Government has made the commitment and asked local authorities to help them – we are taking on our share of the numbers."

Councillor Lawrence said support would

Report by Alex Ross

be provided to the families and he hoped they would contribute to communities. The refugees will be settled across the city in accommodation leased by a supported accommodation provider, the council. They will be mainly families with children.

Councils taking part in the scheme have to show they have suitable accommodation for at least 12 months.

Under guidelines set by the Government, officers must consider the availability of school places, health provision and the property marketing when deciding on the number of refugees to take in.

The council will receive £8,520 per refugees accepted, plus £4,500 to provide education for every child aged five to 18 years.

Further funding is available to the council for each refugee, starting with £5,000 for a refugee's second year, and ending with £1,000 for the fifth year.

Last month, it was announced more than 4,000 refugees arrived in Britain under the scheme. Ministers committed to take in the refugees following a public outcry over the fate of those attempting the perilous journey across the Mediterranean.

Rock on – Tommy cat is home

From left, Kathleen, Graham and Angela Williams from Ash Hill in Compton, reunited with Tommy

A MUCH-loved moggy has been reunited with his owners – 14 months after going missing.

Tommy escaped from his basket in Jeffcock Road, Wolverhampton, after being frightened by a dog following a routine visit to the vet's in November 2015. His distraught owners put up posters, alerted social media and hand-delivered 400 leaflets.

Despite never giving up hope that the five-year-old rescue cat would return, the family was still shocked to get a call from someone who recognised Tommy from an internet appeal. Simple photo checks confirmed it was indeed their long-lost pet.

Graham Williams, a consultant surgeon at New Cross Hospital, and his wife Angela, of Ash Hill, Compton, said they were overjoyed to have him home. His return was a complete surprise for daughter Kathleen, 26, who was on holiday when Tommy was returned.

COUNCIL

Homes plan for old school site

PLANS have been submitted to build dozens of homes on the site of a demolished primary school in Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Council wants to build 26 houses and nine apartments at the site of former Ettingshall Primary School in Herbert Street. The plans include 62 car parking spaces and 10 spaces for bicycles.

It is part of wider plans by Wolverhampton Council to build around 800 homes over the next four years.

DISABLED

Charity closure fear after funding blow

A CHARITY that has helped disabled children and their carers for 22 years has revealed it could be forced to close after it failed in its latest funding bid.

Wombourne Special Needs Support Group (WINGS) offers respite care, social activities, clubs and a summer play scheme for children with special needs and disabilities.

Bosses say it could close by the summer if urgent fundraising fails. The charity had been relying on national funding but its last bid was unsuccessful. Nan Flavell, chair of WINGS said: "We are desperate to raise money so the charity can carry on."

INSIDE

OUTRAGE OVER DUG UP DRIVE

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All cheers as popular pub is saved

Delight on Bushbury pub

PROPOSALS to demolish a well-known pub in Wolverhampton and replace it with a convenience store will not go ahead as the brewery has renewed the pub's contract.

The plans to partially demolish the Harrowby Arms, based on Patshull Avenue in Fordhouses to make way for a new Co-Operative shop were submitted by company NewRiver who are known for their work in building retail units and housing on car parks.

The plans had been rejected in June last year, with the deadline for the company to appeal the council's decision set as December 22. As NewRiver did not appeal the council's refusal of the plans, Marston's decided to renew the pub's lease for 15 years. The brewery had originally sold the pub to NewRiver as one of more that 200 the company took over in recent years.

Councillor Ian Angus of Bushbury North explained: "The council's planning department refused NewRiver's plans earlier this year. We had expected NewRiver to take the decision to appeal but the deadline of December 22, 2016 passed without an appeal being lodged with the planning inspectorate. Marston's have since confirmed to us that they have entered into a new, long term lease on the property."

Prior to the council's rejection of the plans, a petition was launched to rescue the popular pub from the developers, which was supported by councillors. More than 1,000 signed the petition.

Lisa Parsons, licensee said: "It is such a community pub, it is the real heart of Fordhouses and to have secured it for the future is such a relief. People really got behind the campaign to save it and it feels amazing to know that we have won."

CCTV on buses to help police in crime battle

CCTV cameras have been introduced in buses across the region to help police officers tackle anti-social behaviour and crime.

National Express West Midlands has installed state-of-the-art 4G Vemotion CCTV units to some of its vehicles.

The technology allows the Safer Travel police team to tap into live CCTV feeds and view anti-social behaviour on any vehicles housing the equipment. The real-time footage means officers can then stop the bus and quickly act upon any bad behaviour.

CCTV footage from the buses has already resulted in a 75 per cent success rate in identifying offenders. It is hoped that the new technology will make police work even more effective.

The installation of the cameras follows a successful trial of the units for BBC's Crimewatch Roadshow last year. As part of the trial, a pickpocket was caught live on camera on the top deck of a National Express West Midlands bus, and the Safer Travel control room dispatched a rapid response unit to make an arrest.

Data

Passengers can also use the Safer Travel Partnership's 'See Something, Say Something' service to report any anti-social behaviour on National Express West Midlands buses. The reports help to build data which assists officers in targetting crime hotspots.

Inspector Rachel Crump, policing lead for the Safer Travel Partnership, said: "Our job is to make sure people can travel safely on public transport and the information we receive from passengers through See Something, Say Something is incredibly useful. We use the information to look at hotspot routes or areas that we can target with the new 4G Vemotion units.

"Although they may not see blue lights arriving immediately, passengers can be assured that we are working hard behind the scenes to tackle anti-social behaviour on the bus network."

Travelling on public transport in the West Midlands has seen crime fall by 70 per cent in the last eight years. On the bus network the total number of recorded crimes from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 was 2,755, a six per cent fall from 2,930 the previous year.

Record sales for the vinyl revival

Sales stronger – owner Claire Howell, at Vinyl & Vintage, Wolverhampton

VINYL sales have reached a record high following a revival of the black plastic disc – and the upward trend shows no sign of waning.

Record shop owner Claire Howell, who runs Vinyl and Vintage in Wolverhampton city centre, said: "Sales are definitely getting stronger.

"I've had this shop for five years and I was based in the market for 20 years before that, and sales of vinyl have been going up all the time."

More than 3.2 million LPs were sold last year, according to latest figures published by the British Phonographic Industry - a rise of 53 per cent on 2015 and the highest annual total since 1991.

Important

But Claire, whose shop is situated in Cleveland Street, said it was important to encourage younger customers to buy original rather than re-issued vinyl.

"The renewed interest in vinyl led the big stores, like HMV and Sainsbury's, to sell new vinyl records which affected small independents like myself.

"I'm often cheaper but I can't sell in volume like they do so I might have to order in for a customer. We now sell both new and second-hand vinyl."

It will be the seventh year on the bounce that sales of 12-inch records have recorded double-digit growth, pushing their share of the physical music market to 18 per cent.

£1m grant to help launch of new air ambulance

A NEW air ambulance will be taking to the region's skies following a £1 million grant.

Midlands Air Ambulance, based at RAF Cosford, will order the new craft after it was announced that the charity would be given the money by the Government from fines imposed on banks for fixing Libor rates.

Hanna Sebright, chief executive for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "The injection of funds via the banking fine comes as very welcome news at the charity as it will help further enhance our vitally important emergency service.

Upgraded

"The allocation has enabled us to place an order for an upgraded H145 helicopter, which will cost in total approximately £7 million."

The charity currently owns one EC135 helicopter, based at RAF Cosford in Shropshire and leases two further EC135 models from Babcock Mission Critical Services, based at Tatenhill airfield in Staffordshire and Strensham Services on the M5 in Worcestershire.

The charity has made the decision to buy a larger helicopter and lease only one in future to enable it to develop its clinical and operational service in pre-hospital patient care.

It is hoped that this will reduce operating costs, making the charity more sustainable. The new helicopter will have a larger interior so young patients can be flown accompanied by a parent or the elderly with a carer or spouse.

Meningitis jab call to students

HEALTH chiefs in Wolverhampton are reminding first year university students to get their injections to fight meningitis and septicaemia.

This comes as Public Health England (PHE) has issued advice to universities on reducing the spread of the deadly meningococcal infection.Figures show that less than a third of all young people leaving school or college last summer had been immunised with the Men ACWY vaccine.

PHE introduced the vaccination programme in 2015 to tackle a sharp increase in a particularly virulent strain of meningococcal W disease.Councillor Paul Sweet, Wolverhampton council's cabinet member for public health and wellbeing, said: "New students are at a higher risk of meningococcal disease."

Write on way to boost your skills

ENTHUSIASTIC wordsmiths are invited to attend sessions aimed at developing their skills.

The Coachhouse writers' group meets every Tuesday, apart from Bank Holiday weeks, at the Old Coach House, Oldswinford, from 10am to 12 noon.

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University in the frame to save town's art gallery

WOLVERHAMPTON University could step in to save Walsall's under-threat New Art Gallery.

The university, which has a campus in Walsall at Gorway Road, has confirmed early talks are under way about some form of partnership arrangement stating there is an 'obvious' case for collaboration with the venue, which campaigners have claimed could close due to cuts in council funding.

A university spokesman said: "The University of Wolverhampton has been in Walsall for more than 50 years and we are very keen to further develop our presence and relationships in the town.

Discussions

"As part of that we are currently involved in discussions with a number of organisations, including Walsall Council, about possible areas of collaboration around education, business and enterprise.

"We'd like to enhance what we offer in Walsall, both at our campus and within the community and are keen to identify any opportunities that may help us achieve that. Walsall councillor Doug James who revealed the university's involvement, also claimed a 'major' local company was looking to sponsor the gallery while bosses were also preparing to apply for national funding.

Walsall Council leader Sean Coughlan welcomed the latest developments.

More than 6,500 people have signed a petition to save the gallery.

Ski legend Eddie swoops in for talk

SKI jumping legend Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards will provide the entertainment when Tettenhall Round Table celebrates its 60th anniversary.

The Olympic hero is the after-dinner speaker on March 31 at Perton Golf Club. Despite being totally self-funded and scared of heights, Edwards became, in 1988, Great Britain's first ever ski jumper at an Olympic Games. His story was last year turned into a Hollywood film starring Hugh Jackman.

Just 100 tickets, at £40 each, including a three-course meal, are available. The event will raise funds for the club's nominated charities this year, Central Youth Theatre, Believe to Achieve, Trudy's Trust, Compton Hospice, and Promise Dreams.

Folk singer Will set to entertain

FOLK singer Will Morgan will be at Codsall Village Hall tomorrow accompanied by Ian Dempsey Robbins on bass and accordion. A former three-string guitarist, he performs a variety of styles, including country music.

Street alcohol ban gets thumbs up

TOUGH new plans that could see a total ban on the drinking of alcohol in the city centre have been backed by readers.

The proposals, put forward by Wolverhampton Council, could see police stop people drinking in the city centre and areas where anti-social behaviour is occurring or is likely to occur.

The Public Space Protection Order would be in place in St Peter's and Park wards, which includes the city centre, as well as areas such as Whitmore Reans and Dunstall Hill, Merridale and West Park.

The order would be introduced from April 6 and added to current 'discretionary' police powers.

A total of 483 people have so far responded to our sister daily, the Express & Star's online poll. A huge 88 per cent of people agreed a total ban should be brought in, with only 58 people (or 12 per cent) saying they didn't. A total of 328 people said that they had felt intimidated by street drinkers.

One person commented: "Excellent news. "Maybe the answer is to increase the powers of the litter wardens. Just get the drunks and druggies off the streets." Another wrote: "Fully agree, then stop the mobile phone zombies who charge at you unaware you are in front of them."

Some were not as positive. One person said: "What is the point? The police already have powers to confiscate alcohol off people. All this will do is force the drinkers to find another spot in more residential areas."Years ago you could pop into several of the many pubs on any afternoon and you would find the same people slurring into their pints. Closing the pubs and putting up the price did nothing to stop them. The street became their pub and they swapped their pints for cans or bottles of cider."

The proposals are now subject to a six week consultation period, where people are being invited to submit their views. The plans will then be discussed at the council's Cabinet meeting where they will then be approved or rejected.

People can have their say by completing a short survey at https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CH7LGTG. The closing date for comments is February 17, 2017. To take part in the Express & Star poll visit www.expressandstar.com

Funding to schools will face nearly £110m cuts

FUNDING to schools is set to be cut by nearly £110 million in the Black Country and Staffordshire, claim new figures.

The huge sum is equivalent to 2,947 teachers, or each pupil losing out on £424.20 on average.

The shock statistics have been released on a website launched by the National Union of Teachers called schoolcuts.org. It is predicted that the budget for city schools will have to be reduced by 2020.

Wolverhampton schools are set to lose £14,398,920 by 2019 according to the figures. That works out to the equivalent of £423 per pupil or 386 teachers.

Schools in Walsall would lose £19,080,329 in the next two years, which works out to £461 per pupil or 512 teachers. In Sandwell, schools are set to have funding reduced by £23,813,284 in the same time frame. That works out to £484 or 639 teachers.

Losers

Staffordshire schools will lose £34,053,091 according to the figures, which would equate to £317 per pupil or 914 teachers, and schools in Dudley stand to lose £18,494,248, which is equivalent to £436 per pupil or 496 teachers.

Deficit

Analysts have worked out the figures after looking at schools' budgets, the number of pupils, how much cash will be available to them in 2020, how much cash per pupil schools will lose and the equivalent full time teacher salaries that amount works out to.

The website, launched by the National Union of Teachers, has an interactive map which lists several individual schools and shows what they stand to lose if the cuts go ahead. The figure for the number of teachers schools would lose is based on the national average salary of £37,000.

Councillor Claire Darke, City of Wolverhampton Council cabinet member for education, said: "We have a duty to the children in the city to improve schools, but it's becoming increasingly difficult now that the local authority doesn't have the powers to step in."

She added: "The Government has made so many changes and cuts to education it's difficult to keep up. It is making it very difficult for schools to operate.

"It's disadvantaging the children, it's their education."

Driveway dug up without consent

Tracey Jones with an invoice and leaflet posted through her door after her driveway was ripped up

TRADERS pulled up a Wolverhampton driveway – then posted a note asking for £2,500.

Tracey Jones, an infection control nurse at New Cross Hospital, was horrified to find a muddy patch of land at her Finchfield home on returning from work. She then discovered a bill had been pushed through the door.

Trading Standards are looking into the case and the police have been informed. The 51-year-old mother of three lives at the property with her partner Carl Osbourne, 47.

Days earlier, she had turned down work on the drive from a man with a broad Irish accent who had knocked on the door.

She said she was considering giving the driveway a facelift, but was not prepared to agree to the work on the doorstep and would contact him if she wanted it done. She said: "I came home the following evening and my front garden had been completely dug up and they'd left a bill for £2,500."

The man had left the bill, signed as 'John', with a leaflet for P&S Paving Ltd. The man had also nailed a sign to a ree with a contact number.

John at P&S Paving, which also has a premises in Dudley, said it : "It was just a misunderstanding. I thought I had permission to carry out the work."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beach massacre inquests start

FAMILIES of 30 Britons massacred on a Tunisian beach are hoping to finally get some answers about what happened and whether the atrocity could have been avoided.

The inquests started this week with the startling discovery that the attack mastermind is known and is on the run.

The families of the deceased, including Suzy Richards from Wednesbury who lost her son, brother and father in Tunisia, will expect to find out exactly what happened on that ill-fated day on June 26, 2015.

Get on board for championships

BOARD game enthusiasts are invited to attend an award-winning Championship event, which is set to return to the West Midlands this year.

The Board Games Championships are to take place at micropubs across the West Midlands this year following the success of last year's event.

The aim of the championships is to reinforce the traditional pastime and will run at various venues from February 26 to March 26.

For more information and to get involved, visit: www.boardgameschampionships.co.uk

Push for checks on diabetes risk

People are being urged to find out whether they're at risk of developing type two diabetes and make healthy changes to their lifestyle.

Diabetes UK are asking that people look into improving their lifestyles to lower the risk of developing the condition after studies revealed almost two thirds of adults in the UK are overweight or obese. Diets full of sugar and fat, and not getting much exercise often leads to weight gain which can result in the condition.

Archives to focus on the First World War

WOLVERHAMPTON Civic and Historical Society is to hold a local history research day on Saturday.

The group will be finding out about the First World War at Wolverhampton Archives. There will be speakers, a question and answer session and a small exhibition of war artefacts.

City archivist Heidi McIntosh will speak on the Wolverhampton War Project and Doug Lewis on war memorials . It runs from 10am-2.30pm and costs £5. Details on 07771 836744.

Drivers face delays

DRIVERS are reminded they face delays as officials carry out 'urgent' work to repair electrical cables.

The work is on Upper Villiers Street, Wolverhamptonwhich connects with the A4039 on Goldthorn Hill. The work will continue until Tuesday.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER tells me he saw his doctor last week. This week he received an email from a funeral-insurance company. Just keep telling yourself it's pure coincidence.

AFTER my recent piece on police being unwilling to carry guns, a retired cop recalls that, although he never wanted a pistol, he found himself with one during a raid. It had fallen out of another officer's holster.

ANOTHER ex-cop tells me the prospect of arming some bobbies chills his blood. He says: "Some of the younger bobbies on my old shift were so gung-ho they would have shot each other before they had got out of the parade-room door. Interestingly, the officers really opposed to being armed were ex soldiers."

A TEAM of blacked-up Morris dancers started their show in Birmingham and were heckled and abused and forced to clear off. Well, what did they expect? The Alvechurch Morris men claim to be following an old tradition of dancers blackening their faces so as not to be recognised by their employers. Bunkum. This practice was confined to small parts of Wales, centuries ago. Why has it become so popular with Morris sides all over England, especially one like the Alvechurch team which was founded less than 30 years ago? Look at old photos of Morris sides and you'll find virtually all the faces are white. Blacking-up is not some revered old tradition but a modern choice, and in the middle of multicultural Brum a very silly choice.

OH, dear. It's been another terrible week for those people variously described as Bremainers or Remoaners. They deserve a new name, something to capture their growing acceptance of Brexit, coupled with undying dismay. I toyed with Les Miserables but that's far too European. So instead, let us call them the Glums. Having spent months warning darkly that new trade agreements could take a decade, the Glums watched in horror as Boris Johnson met the Trump team and sewed up some sort of understanding with the Yanks over coffee. Okay, it's not a proper trade agreement but as we are gradually discovering, you do not need a trade agreement in order to agree to trade.

FOR amateur weather forecasters, this is a significant time of year. According to the Diall of Daies published in 1590, each of the first 12 days of January predicts the weather for the year to come. The afternoon of January 8, for example, indicates the weather for June. And today's weather is a sort of summary for 2017's weather overall. Do not throw away ye olde seaweede.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Wife's body found with flowers by side

A WOMAN killed by her husband was discovered under a blanket with flowers laid by her side on the kitchen floor of her home, an inquest heard.

Linda Ordinans' body was found at her and husband Nigel's home in Mill Green, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, in the early hours of December 8.

Mr Ordinans, aged 63, confessed to the killing before he was found dead near the white cliffs of Dover, an earlier inquest hearing into his death heard. At Black Country Coroners' Court, an inquest was opened into Mrs Ordinans, aged 61. Senior Coroners officer, Russell Williams, said: "We are still waiting for a formal identification of the lady.

"But at this stage she is Linda Ordinans who was married and a retired secretary. Kent Police received a call from a male claiming to have killed his wife and this was Nigel Ordinans.

"As a result of that call West Midlands Police went and forced entry into the house in Wolverhampton and found the body of who was believed to be Linda on the kitchen floor covered in blankets with flowers laid by her side."

The cause of death given was head injuries. Kent Police later found the decapitated body of Nigel Ordinans in his car, the hearing heard. Paperwork for the inquest of Mr Ordinans has been sent to Black Country Coroners to combine the hearings. The inquest was adjourned to February 22.

Det Sgt Ian Wilkins said: "We are trying to establish the reasons Nigel Ordinans did what he did. There are a number of items being examined."

Market move to old Netto site welcomed

By Rob Cox

WOLVERHAMPTON market will be moved to a new city centre site under latest plans. Traders will relocate from Market Square to a new home in Cleveland Street.

The site was formerly used by Netto and a furniture store. It will pave the way for a £55 million regeneration scheme to dramatically transform the western part of the city.

The Westside scheme includes a multi-screen cinema, restaurants, bars, hotel, multi-storey car park, apartments and public open space.

Wolverhampton Council's cabinet is set to approve the market relocation this week. It will move to a site currently used for parking.

Councillor Steve Evans, Cabinet Member for City Environment, said: "The council is proud to have a legally-binding Royal Charter, which commits us to holding a weekly market in the city centre.

"Relocating the market to Southside will not only pave the way for a first-class leisure development on Westside, will also allow the market to thrive in a new, prominent location. The feedback we have had from initial discussions with the market traders has been positive.

Enhanced

"The merging of the indoor and outdoor markets last year enhanced the customer experience. This will help with the transition to Southside and an on-going programme put in place to develop the market. It will prove an asset to the city centre."

The new market on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday will front onto Cleveland Street, opposite the Wulfrun Shopping Centre, which it is hoped will boost the numbers of shoppers. The old Netto store and adjoining buildings were demolished last year.

The move will see 48 tented stalls and 16 purpose-built cabins transfer from Market Square and it is anticipated the move will be completed towards the end of the year, but not during the Christmas period. Bosses expect a boost from the proximity to the bus and rail stations, as well the high numbers of students in the Southside area.

Market traders' representative Dud Malik said: "The new site is in a much better location for traders, nearer the transport links and the Mander Centre. We're looking forward to a fresh start and additional footfall."

A temporary market has been in place since April when the indoor traders joined the outdoor traders in Market Square to enable the demolition of the old indoor market.

The site of the new market in Wolverhampton city centre on Cleveland Street

£120k makeover for historic canal

AN historic canal which runs through Wolverhampton is set to have a £120,000 makeover this year. The Birmingham Canal Old Main Line Canal runs through the city as well as a raft of Black Country scenery.

Now, a new programme of work will see the canal's lock gates replaced and historic brickwork restored.

The works are being carried out by skilled craftsmen and engineers from the Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of waterways, as part of its annual winter maintenance programme.

The works on the Wolverhampton Flight will see £120,000 invested in installing new lock gates, repairing brickwork and replacing lock ladders which enable boaters to climb up out of locks. Work is expected to be completed in early February.

For the repairs to take place sections of the canal will be drained of water and hundreds of fish rescued and moved to other parts of the canal. The old lock gates can then be lifted out by a crane and new ones fitted. The new lock gates are hand-crafted using traditional methods in the Trust's specialist workshops at Bradley.

Protesters relieved as playing field saved

CAMPAIGNERS who fought to stop homes being built on a much-loved playing field have welcomed news that it has been saved.

The development would have seen 40 houses built on Prouds Lane playing field in Bilston. It has been rejected by Wolverhampton Council following a public outcry.

The authority wanted to build 40 homes on the field next to a Scout hut in addition to a further 40 properties on the former Bilston Leisure Centre site, next to it.

A 200-strong crowd met recently to protest against the plans, and residents and campaigners received hand-delivered letters from the council last Tuesday saying the development would not be going ahead.

Asset

James Comer, aged 31, of nearby Nightingale Place, said: "It is a real victory of the people.

"It's great to know that we have managed to save the site but already we're looking at the next step to secure it."

Campaigners are now hoping to get the field marked as an Asset of Community Value, meaning that developers would be subject to more rigorous planning requirements if they asked to build there.

"Once we have made the site more secure, we'll be having talks on how to bring the field back to life and run events on there like there used to be," added Mr Comer.

Cannabis plants seized by police

A CANNABIS plants haul was seized by police during a raid at a house in Fordhouses.

The plants were discovered at a property in Filey Road. Officers from the Low Hill, Fallings Park, Bushbury and Oxley Wolverhampton neighbourhood police team went to the property.

Tweeting, @LowHillWMP said: "Officers seized over 30 cannabis plants at an address in Filey Road, Fordhouses. #CannabisCultivation #InPoliceCustody #Drugs."

The news comes as police recently recovered £2 million of 'dirty money', including that involved in drug crime, in less than a year. As part of the operation to recover the money, which will now go to good causes, a Vietnamese cannabis grower was forced to hand back more than £18,000.

Care home events to celebrate 10th year

A CARE home in Tettenhall is celebrating its 10th anniversary with 10 special events.

Sunrise Senior Living, Wergs Road, will hold an event every month for 10 months, leading up to its birthday in October – the 10th month of the year.

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Classrooms backed but clash over site access

WOLVERHAMPTON Girls' High School has won its fight to build six new classrooms – but a row has erupted over access to the site during the year-long construction period.

Planning bosses have given the go-ahead to the extension at Wolverhampton Girls School as it prepares to welcome 700 extra pupils over the next five years. But they have yet to make a decision on which entrance should be used by builders' lorries and other construction traffic.

The staffroom, a 1960s annexe and two-storey rebuild will be bulldozed to make way for the classrooms but part of the new building will encroach on the green belt.

Safety

Headteacher Trudi Young told Wolverhampton City Council's planning committee that there was a need for more places and a desire by the school to expand its education provision.

But using the main entrance on Tettenhall Road would put pupils' lives at risk because drivers would have to travel to the opposite side of the site where the extension is planned.

"We believe the safety of pupils should not be compromised," said Mrs Young, who favours the school's other entrance on St Jude's Road West, a residential cul-de-sac.

But Councillor Phil Page said delivery times could be restricted. "I don't accept that the main entrance cannot be used. If workmen stick rigidly to a delivery timetable, pupils may not even see a vehicle coming in."

Worker tried to steal from firm

A MAN admitted trying to steal more than £1,000 worth of items from his employer.

Iliya Uzunov was working for Amazon at Rugeley when a security guard caught him trying to take an Intel computer processor worth £320.

He admitted taking another two processors and clothes to his car. The items were worth £1,081.47 in total.

The 29-year-old, originally from Bulgaria, lives in Harrow Street, Wolverhampton.

He admitted one charge of theft by employee at a hearing at Cannock Magistrates' Court

The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report before he returns to court on January 24.

He was remanded on bail.

Authors book in for talks at school

FOUR best-selling authors will be speaking about their work at Wolverhampton Grammar School on Wednesday, February 1. Each will discuss their leading ladies and how they battle through any challenges.

Battle on £36m super hub stepped up

Meeting to discuss hub plan

MORE than 100 villagers have vowed to step up their fight against a freight company that wants to build a £36 million super hub near their homes.

They were boosted by the news that lawyers acting for South Staffordshire Council believe the proposed scheme would be inappropriate development on the green belt site.

Applicant DX Freight, which wants to build a 44-acre transport depot off Hobnock Road, has argued the land was previously used for industry. However the council has dismissed the argument as the former brickworks took up only 11 acres, or a quarter of the plot DX wants to develop.

The news was greeted with cheers at a heated public meeting at Essington Community Centre where residents voiced their frustrations about the possible increase in traffic, lorry pollution and noise.

But they were told that Staffordshire County Council, which has responsibility for highways, believes the village roads would be able to cope with the extra journeys, around 650 a night. Campaign leaders insisted the battle had to be focused instead on planning issues. The parish council is laying on buses to take residents to the next planning committee at South Staffordshire Council's Codsall headquarters, in March or April. Hundreds of protestors lobbied the committee at a crunch meeting last May which saw the scheme rejected.

Villagers are concerned that a new system of electronic voting means the public will not be able to tell which way individual councillors vote. Essington councillor David Clifft said: "At the end of the day you are representing your constituents."

£7.5m to be spent on sorting out potholes

THE West Midlands and Staffordshire is to be given more than £7.5 million to tackle potholes.

The government has revealed the amount of money each region across the country will be receiving in the next financial year to fill in potholes as well as stop them forming.

The West Midlands will receive £7.67 million overall, including £1.22m for the West Midlands Combined Authority and £1.58m for Staffordshire. The government say the funding for the West Midlands, which includes areas such as Hereford, Shropshire and Stoke, will lead to around 144,000 potholes being fixed in 2017/18.

In announcing the funding, transport minister Andrew Jones said: "Roads play a significant part in everyday life linking people with jobs and businesses with customers, which is why this government is investing record amounts improving and maintaining highways across the country to help motorists."

Frustration

The new funds have been backed by South Staffordshire MP and the Conservative chief whip Gavin Williamson.

He said: "The state of our roads is consistently raised with me by residents and remains a great source of frustration for drivers.

"This funding is welcome news for families and businesses in Staffordshire who rely on our roads to get around. It builds on the £1,069,000 we got last year and is the latest step in our plan to build a country that works for everyone.

"The announcement shows that we are delivering on our commitment to invest in infrastructure to attract businesses and secure a better future for local businesses."

The funding allocated specifically for potholes is part of more than £115m the West Midlands is receiving to improve roads, cut congestion and improve journey times.

Including its £1.22m pothole fund, the West Midlands Combined Authority is set to receive £21.5m.

This is broken down to £14.45m from the highways maintenance block needs formula and £5.79m from the national productivity investment fund. The authority covers Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Bus campaigners' route to success

Campaign win – Councillor Greg Brackenridge, Sid and Pat Bellingham and Keith and Rae Moorcroft

RESIDENTS who campaigned to get a bus service to make stops in Wednesfield have won their fight against transport chiefs.

They battled to enable the elderly and disabled to continue to use services in the Wood End area that had been disrupted due to work to demolish Pinfold Bridge.

The number 59 bus route, which starts at Ashmore Park had travelled into Wolverhampton via Pinfold Bridge. But, transport bosses suggested a change in the route – which passed a number of sheltered homes – because of the work.

The changes would have seen the bus veer off its current route at Lakefield Road, meaning that passengers would have had to walk down Wood End Road for half a mile or more to pick up the route.

But now, National Express West Midlands have confirmed they have rerouted the 89 bus to Wood End island every 20 minutes to help vulnerable residents during the repairs.

Councillor Greg Brackenridge of Wednesfield South said: "I would like to thank all the Wednesfield councillors who helped in this campaign and councillors Daniel Warren and Judith Rowley who are Wolverhampton's representatives on the integrated transport authority."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blakemore sales hit £1.31 billion

FAMILY-OWNED food retail, wholesale and distribution group A F Blakemore & Son saw an 0.2 per cent increase in profits and a 2.4 per cent increase in sales in its latest set of annual accounts.

The Willenhall-based business, which celebrates its centenary in 2017, recorded annual sales of £1.31 billion with pre-tax profits up from £7.59m to £7.60m for the 2015-2016 financial year.

Chairman, Peter Blakemore, described the figures as a pleasing steady result, thanking all members of staff.

Securing help for football coaching

A WOLVERHAMPTON-based security firm has sponsored a football coaching programme.

Squire has announced a sponsorship deal with RB Coaching.This will enable the scheme to expand its coaching programmes for aspiring 7-18 year old. Based in the West Midlands RB Coaching has helped many players who are affiliated to professional clubs and grassroots teams fulfil their potential.

RB Coaching was set up by UEFA licensed coach Ryan Byrne, a former Nottingham Forest Academy player.

Money pressures mostly in the 20s

THE typical Wolverhampton resident faces the most financial pressures in life in their 20s, according to a new report.

Research by The Royal Bank of Scotland reveals people in the city, on average, are engaged by 24 and married by 27.

Residents are also likely to buy their own home at the age of 27 and have a baby in the same year.

By the age of 31 they will, on average, be changing career.

Archives to focus on the First World War

WOLVERHAMPTON Civic and Historical Society is to hold a local history research day on Saturday.

The group will be finding out about the First World War at Wolverhampton Archives. There will be speakers, a question and answer session and a small exhibition of war artefacts.

City archivist Heidi McIntosh will speak on the Wolverhampton War Project and Doug Lewis on war memorials . It runs from 10am-2.30pm and costs £5. Details on 07771 836744.

Chance to chill out

THOSE looking to gain a sense of calm and serenity in 2017 are invited to attend sessions on meditation.

The Mahamudra Mindfulness and Meditation Group meets every Wednesday from 7-9.30pm at The Chaplaincy Centre, based on Molineux Street, Wolverhampton.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

NHS: We need to be more realistic

SOME years ago a man came into our office with a complaint about the charity then known as Age Concern.

He was furious that somebody from the charity who was supposed to have planed his door had not shown up.

"Why do you always ask people for their age?" asked our receptionist when he had gone. I suggested that maybe a fit, healthy man in his mid-50s possibly could do his own DIY.

Which brings me to the "humanitarian crisis" which is supposed to be engulfing the NHS at the moment.

There are no easy answers. We have a growing and ageing population and more costly procedures and drugs than ever before, not helped by profiteering drug companies.

And while there are plenty of people who say it is all down to funding, these people tend to have a stock reply when asked how much extra tax they are prepared to pay.

Nothing. It should be somebody else who pays for it.

Then there are the vast swathes of the population who take the attitude that if a service is free to use, they might as well use it.

We've all met them. They take a fortnight off work every time they sneeze. They call their GP when they get indigestion. And rock up at A & E every time they get a headache. And shout a lot when they don't get immediate attention.

A bit like middle-aged men who think a charity for the elderly should do their home improvements.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has come in for a lot of stick for suggesting the four-hour waiting targets should only apply to people with urgent conditions, but I tend to think it is a fair point.

If people expect Bupa standards of healthcare, we are going to have to start paying Bupa prices. All of us. Otherwise, we are going to need a mature debate about what we can reasonably expect from the NHS.

And it might mean that while priority is given to those with genuine life-threatening conditions, those with conditions that can wait will have to do just that. Wait.

❒❒❒

A LOT has been made of the number of celebrity deaths over recent months, but none has made me sadder than that of former Villa, Wolves and England manager Graham Taylor.

Maybe it's because football is a bigger part of my life than film, television or music.

But maybe it is because the loss of the bright young manager who arrived at Villa Park in 1987 reminds us of our own mortality.

Either way, he will be greatly missed.

Bank clerk Tanya Nelson weighing out coins in 1983

Batches of coins being moved at the Royal Mint in 1983

Why pound in pocket is all about to change

Our new £1 won't just look very different, its value is nothing like it was years ago, as Mark Andrews reports

HAD a look at your change lately? Noticed how many shiny new £1 coins have been issued over the past few months?

Well don't get too attached to them. By October they will cease to be legal tender.

A new, 12-sided £1 coin – designed by Walsall teenager David Pearce – will enter circulation on March 28, and by October 15 the familiar round pound will be no more. Given that there are thought to be 1.5 billion of these coins in circulation, it is going to be a very big operation.

When the pound coin was introduced on April 21, 1983, the response was muted to say the least. Just 10 months earlier, the 20p piece had been introduced, with many consumers, particularly the older generation, complaining that it was too small – smaller than the 2p, 5p or 10p coins of the day, for example.

Inflation

So when the long established £1 note was replaced by a metal coin after more than a decade of heavy inflation, it was perhaps little surprise that consumers felt it reflected the decline in the pound's worth.

Back in 1967, when prime minister Harold Wilson famously assured us that the pound in our pockets had not been devalued, a £1 note would have bought a discounted winter coat in the sale at Shrewsbury's ABC Warehouse. Or failing that, it would be enough to pay for 10 loaves of bread, or six pints of beer in a pub.

But by the time the pound coin arrived in 1983, it did not go so far – enough to buy a single pint of Carling Black Label, or five pints of milk.

Today, it will typically buy two pints of milk, or a single loaf of bread. But forget a trip to your local – a typical pint is now nearer £4.

As far back as 1980, the Royal Mint observed it had 'become apparent that with the general decline in purchasing power, the £1 unit of currency was more appropriate to a coin than a banknote'.

Walsall youngster David Pearce whose design was chosen from 6,000 competition entries

Before the coin was introduced in mainland Britain, there had been a not-especially-successful trial in the Isle of Man. Many people refused to acknowledge the new coin, causing them to more or less disappear from circulation. The Manx Treasurer was left with little choice but to print a new batch of £1 notes.

The original £1 coin was designed by the Bank of England's chief engraver Eric Sewell, who was very proud of his new design. He said it was very distinctive and could easily be picked out from lesser coins in a purse or pocket of change. But on launch day it was reported that some critics said they would spend it like loose change because that was precisely what it was.

The reasons for switching from the note to the coin were logical enough.

In 1983, a paper £1 note had an average lifespan of just nine months, whereas it was estimated that the new coins would last at least 40 years. The number of early £1 coins still in circulation is testament to their durability.

Unsurprisingly, the vending trade was very supportive of the move, too, as it allowed machines to be adapted to accept larger amounts of money. The launch of the new coin also coincided with the growth of pay-and-display car parking machines.

Given the pound's origins, it is perhaps not surprising that some people felt the small coin had cheapened its value. The oldest currency in the world, the pound took its name from its weight in silver during Norman times – 240 old silver pennies weighed one pound. No wonder people thought they were being short-changed. The reverse designs of the £1 coin represented the UK and its four constituent parts – Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England and the first series of designs took floral emblems as its theme.

Resistance to the coins turned out to be comparatively shortlived, and the last pound notes were phased out in 1988. Besides, there was far more to complain about in 1990, with the introduction of the new smaller £5 notes and 5p coins. But while the pound coin has largely been accepted by the general public, it has given birth to another problem. Forgery.

From the start, the £1 coin has been forged on a prolific scale, Ironically, one of the reasons the coins proved so popular with forgers was the ease of disposing of them in vending machines.

Surveys by the Royal Mint have estimated that up to three in every 100 £1 coins are fakes, and this has been a major driver in the redesign. David Gauke, chief secretary to the Treasury, has pledged that the new £1 coin will be harder to forge than ever before.

Lighter

The new coin will be made from two metals, with a gold-coloured outer ring and a silver-coloured inner ring. It has an image that changes from a '£' symbol to the number '1' when the coin is seen from different angles. It also has very small lettering on both sides of the coin and milled edges. It is thinner and lighter than the round pound, but its diameter is slightly larger.

While the existing pound coin has changed little since 1983, people's spending habits have, with greater use of plastic and the internet.

According to figures from the Payments Council, cold hard cash accounted for 86 per cent of payments in the UK in the mid-1980s, but by 2011 this had dropped to 55 per cent. The decline in cash usage has coincided with the rise in automated payments such as direct debits and standing orders.

Debit cards made up almost one fifth of payments by 2011, but they made none when the £1 coin was first introduced because the debit card was not brought in until 1987.

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Residents' fury as care home given go-ahead

RESIDENTS are furious after council bosses gave the go-ahead for a care home in their road despite appeals over a lack of parking spaces.

Neighbours object to the scale of the centre, for adults with learning and physical difficulties, arguing that the council has rejected previous planning bids for smaller schemes at the site in Barnard Road, Wednesfield.

Opponents say the figures do not add up, with 10 staff but only eight parking spaces and no provision for visiting relatives, medics or delivery drivers.

Councillor Phil Bateman, who represents Wednesfield North, said Barnard Road was already on a council register of roads with existing parking problems.

Petition

Over the past 10 years residents have successfully campaigned against attempts to develop the site, including plans for an 11-bed care home, houses and a three-storey apartment block. But planning bosses at Wolverhampton City Council agreed to allow the latest proposal for the 16-bed home despite a 150-signature petition and letters from residents.

Denise Flanagan, operations manager for Voyage Care, which will run the home, said the facility would house local people who had been forced to live outside the city because of a lack of appropriate accommodation. She said their residents had a right to live in their home city and that the majority of their staff used public transport.

But Wednesfield South councillor Greg Brackenridge said: "Given that there are 370sq metres on the site not taken up by the building, I suggest we ask the applicant to look at the plans again and come back with more parking spaces."

Resident Karen Blower called the decision 'diabolical'. "It looks like the council have done this for the money because it's obvious our road can't take it."

Choir hits notes for charity

Presenting money to Brother Charles, choir members Sue Symons, Pippa Cole, Ruth Byrne, Kathie Watson, and Madeleine Stride

A CHOIR raised £775 at its annual Christmas concert to help a homeless charity.

Wolverhampton Chamber Choir's Christmas Cracker show was held at St Christopher's Church in Codsall. Now, the group has handed the cash over to its chosen charity The Good Shepherd Ministry.

Sue Symons said the festive show on December 14 "was one of the best concerts we've given and we had a great audience."

The group's next concert will be a memorial show on March 4 for Dora Edwards at St John's in the Square Wolverhampton.

After she died in 2016, Mrs Edwards left a legacy for the choir and the concert has been organised in her memory.

She was a deputy head at St Peter's Collegiate School, in Compton Road, until her retirement, as well as a loyal supporter of the choir and an organist herself.

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Freedom of the Press is important

WHILST I still have the freedom to state my view on various subjects to be aired in a newspaper, along with thousands of like minded free people in this country, I will get on with it.

The freedom of the press is part of the basic freedom of every person in this country. Some of us write in occasionally, and other people may write in disagreeing with what we had to say.

Just like in Parliament things are discussed and argued about. The only difference is we are a bit more civilised in the paper than our elected Government.

There are already strict laws regarding what the papers can do, witness the shutting down of the News of the World a few years ago. If some new rules were proposed by the Government, would all the members be prepared to tell their constituents how they voted? I assume a fair and all party vote would have to be performed.

MR G GRIFFITHS
Bilbrook

'Help to Buy' has not closed

PROSPECTIVE house buyers need to know that the recent article 'Closure of Help to Buy hits first time buyers' was inaccurate.The article suggested that the Government-backed Help to Buy scheme has closed.

There were two elements to the Help to Buy Scheme, the Mortgage Guarantee and the Equity Loan and only the Mortgage Guarantee has ceased.

By buying a new build from a participating developer using the Equity Loan, which is still available, the buyer needs a deposit of only 5 per cent. The Government then lend 20 per cent of the deposit.

CARL TATTON
MD Tatton Hall Homes

Look what Bilston has to offer all

K Parton can borrow my rose-tinted specs anytime to look at Bilston.

Just look what we have; bus and tram station next to main shopping area, market just off main shopping street, rarely able to walk down High/Church St without stopping to talk to someone. A world class nightclub (Robin2) and Peascroft Nature Reserve nearby

St Leonard's Church holds the iron coffin of John Wilkinson, inventor of the blast furnace. The author of one of Britain's most inspirational poems, Sir Henry Newbolt, was born in the town.

Bilston has lost much over the past 50 years, and not only it's enamel, but its industrial base. Has that been a truly bad thing? You can now see the town from Sedgley Beacon, where before the smog of the steelworks.

There is so much more that can be said, Mr Parton look again at the positives while feasting on the fare from the best chip shop in the West Midlands.

DAVID STEELE
Wolverhampton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Wolverhampton Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
wolverhampton.chronicles
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Link between issues tenuous

JOHN Reed in his recent letter continued the mistaken idea that there is an agreement in this country to exit the EU. There is not.

The best he can say is that a small majority on a particular day voted for exit, which showed a very divided electorate.

What is of great interest is that the remaining two paragraphs of the letter showed little relation to the issues of the EU referendum. They might be about the freedom of movement of labour, part of the four freedoms in the single market. The link between the two issues is tenuous at best.

The EU does not stipulate how recruiters should recruit, so long as it is fair to all applicants. Exiting the EU, whether hard or soft will not affect the recruitment policy of Nottinghamshire Constabulary.

It is this type of thinking that is being referred to as 'muddled' by those who are now looking at how to negotiate us out of the EU.

DAVID TAYLOR
Wombourne

Overstretched NHS cash call

ONCE again the winter has brought a predicted and predictable crisis in the NHS.

There are alarming stories of patients lying for many hours on trolleys, and even dying on them. Some hospitals have simply run out of space. In the weeks running up to Christmas some hospitals were close to turning away critically ill patients because they were running at 100 per cent capacity.

The effects can't be hidden, and they are distressing for patients and their relatives and also medical staff. Corridors and equipment rooms serve as temporary wards, this can't be right? This is not acceptable in a first world health service that such things happen.Where to look? Spending sprees and reorganisation have failed miserably, so what could be done?

This is where the PM enters the fray, by abandoning the foreign aid budget (much of which is wasted and worse) and diverting the funds to strengthen and expand social care instead of raising council tax by six percent over two years.

GARY CASHMORE
Wolverhampton

Foreign aid? Surely charity should really begin at home

WHEN is our Government going to realise the strength of public feeling against the totally unjustifiable misuse of our tax money which they laughably call foreign aid?

Our national debt stands at an eye-watering £1.6tn, and rising every day, which our children and grandchildren will have to repay. The annual interest payments alone are at least £50bn, this is the figure quoted on the most recent information on how my taxes are spent, sent to me by HMRC.

We are giving this 'aid' to such good causes as girl bands in Ethiopia, cricket teams in China and dancing lessons in Brazil. Money is also put on debit cards so that people in Pakistan can access it via ATM machines.Much of it is also siphoned off in exorbitant salaries for so called 'charity' officials and corrupt regimes. Checks appear to be criminally lax, if they exist at all! Some of the recipient countries, China, India, Pakistan, have space programmes and nuclear weapons.

One of the countries from which we borrow money, China has the second largest economy in the world, we then give them money back as aid, and end up paying the interest to them on top of that. We are borrowing money to give away.

I could think of many better uses for these billions. Best to not to borrow it in the first place, then we would not be saddling our children with extra debt.

Watching the news this morning I saw that the repair bill to fix our pot-holed roads is estimated at, coincidentally the same as the foreign aid budget, £12bn (and rising!). We cannot afford to fix them!

The British Red Cross is warning of a humanitarian crisis in the NHS, they cannot cope. An extra £12bn would be very welcome! No doubt you could, quite easily, find your own reasons why this charity should begin at home!

IVOR SMITH
Penn

Free service is abused

THE reason the NHS is at risk is hugely increased demand, especially from those who think it's for any trivial condition and they're entitled to it without question because it's 'free'.

There's a lack of respect for the NHS, no understanding of what it actually costs, and no personal responsibility amongst most of its patients.

Abuse is absolutely typical of any service that is provided free, so it needs to stop being free. People need to be charged at least a nominal amount every time they use it, and be penalised heavily if they use it unnecessarily. It's the only way to reintroduce the respect it deserves.

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Apprentice aid: Sharon at the helm

THE University of Wolverhampton has appointed a new apprenticeship development manager.

Sharon Thompson will help provide higher and degree-level apprenticeships at its new £500,00 hub at the old Four Feathers pub in Molineux Street.

With a career in the public sector of more than 30 years Sharon, of Fordhouses, has worked locally and nationally on skills and apprenticeships with Walsall Training & Enterprise Council, the Learning & Skills Council and more recently in the National Office of the Skills Funding Agency.

She was seconded to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to work on the Government's reform of apprenticeships.

The hub, which includes a funding contribution of more than £150,000 from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), will provide a one-stop help destination for employers, parents and apprentices.

Self-service just ticket at rail stations

SELF-SERVICE ticket machines have been unveiled at train stations across the Midlands.

A total of 28 machines have been installed across the London Midland network.

The aim is to make rail travel easier, as part of a £15 million ongoing programme of investment in technology.

The machines have been set up at Bilbrook and Codsall stations, in South Staffordshire; Albrighton, Cosford, Shifnal and Oakengates in Shropshire; Shenstone and Stone in Staffordshire.

Also Dudley Port and Birmingham's Adderley Park, Duddeston, Gravelly Hill, Perry Barr, Small Heath, Stechford, Tyseley and Witton.

Bedworth, Berkswell, Blakedown, Colwall and Hartlebury in Warwickshire also had new ticket machines installed.

The machines feature contactless technology to speed up the process of buying a ticket and also offer options to reach any destination in the UK.

They can also be used to collect tickets ordered online via London Midland's click and collect system as soon as 15 minutes after ordering.

Richard Brooks, commercial director at London Midland, said: "We are committed to making travel simple for everyone."

Help pledge on young jobless

PROMOTING independent businesses and tackling youth unemployment is the focus for the Wolverhampton Council leader in 2017.

Councillor Roger Lawrence said: "In 2017 I am looking forward to working with our many partners to continue this investment and development of our city.

"It is important that everyone gets a chance to benefit from new opportunities.

"So in 2017 I will be launching a new joint initiative with the Department for Work and Pensions to cut youth unemployment.

"I will also be celebrating the contribution made by small and independent businesses to our city with the launch of the Wolverhampton Independent Retail Excellence (WIRE) awards, of which there will be more to follow."

Councillor Lawrence said 2016 had been a year of uncertainty nationally but one of investment in Wolverhampton.

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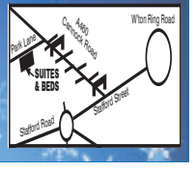

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Window firm goes from strength to strength

Commercial feature

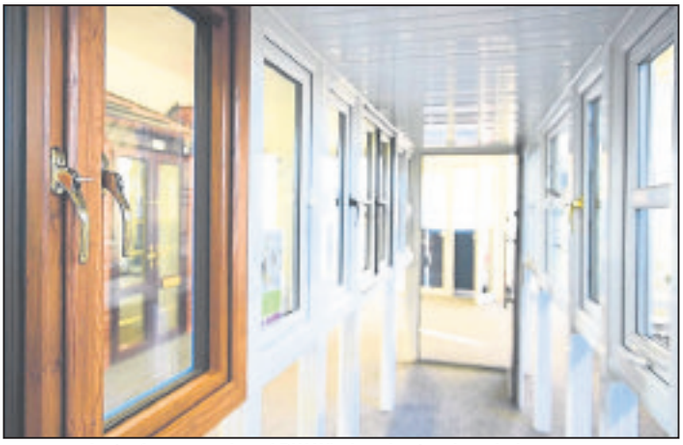
Family run windows specialists DW Windows is celebrating a second decade in business in the Black Country this year.

The business has grown steadily since being founded by former firefighter Dave Walters in 2006. It is now run from a head office in Coseley and has two showrooms and employs more than 30 people, including six directly employed fitting teams. DW Windows has moved on way beyond just double glazed windows - of which it offers many different styles and colour profiles, including aluminium - over the first ten years in business, and also offers conservatories, doors, solid tiled conservatory roofs and much more. Company Secretary and Dave's wife, Claire, said that her husband had 25 years' experience in the windows industry and had fitted them for other companies, but realised that he could provide a better service if doing it himself. "We have gone from being one man with a van operating from our home in Wolverhampton, to employing more than 30 people across two sites," she explained.

DW opened its first showroom in Brick Street, Sedgley, in 2010 and last July opened a much bigger 7,300 sq ft showroom and a new head office in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating a further 15 new jobs. A former warehouse was renovated to create one of the largest windows and doors showrooms in the Midlands, along with offices and a warehouse for DW Windows' stock and supplies.

At Coseley, the window, door and conservatory centre, eight conservatories/orangeries, two porches, 27 various doors, three sliding patios, two bi-fold doors, sliding sash windows and many other various window products are on display as well as more specialist products like the Residence Collection windows, Lumi frameless glazing, aluminium, flush sash windows and also insulated solid tiled conservatory roofing systems. At the Sedgley showroom there are many other windows, doors and conservatory designs on display.

Managing Director Dave Walters advises a customer



Just a few examples of DW Windows' extensive window range

DW Windows specialises in Liniar and Profile 22 uPVC windows and doors and Apeer and Eurocell composite doors.

Claire Walters, who joined her husband in the business in 2013 said that it had grown from a turnover of £180,000 in its first full year to £2.3 million last year. "We have achieved this in spite of going through the height of the economic downturn and uncertainty for the construction industry. In November 2016 the company was rewarded by becoming finalists in the Black Country Chamber of Commerce awards for customer service and outstanding achievements. Our plan now is to open more showrooms in the West Midlands in the next few years as we continue to grow," she said. The core area of business for DW Windows is the Black Country and surrounding areas of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham. It has also had people come from as far as Yorkshire and Wales who had heard about the standard of the company's work.

Most of DW's business comes from recommendations and the remainder from people calling in to its showrooms and through its website - www.dwwindows.co.uk - and many people choose to book an appointment from its product advisers at their homes. They can be booked on Freephone 0800 999 0909.

Once a customer has decided on exactly what they want and signed a contract, one of the company's four directly employed surveyors will attend to do a final measure up.

A date is then given for installation and the surveyor will draw up the job, process it and book the fitters in.

For most work, the aim is to complete the work within four weeks of an order, but for bigger jobs like conservatories, dates are given for the completion of each stage. The team of installers is trained in house to industry standards, with the assistance of an external health and safety consultant. It has CHAS (Construction Health and Safety Scheme) accreditation.

DW Windows, which last year carried out more than 900 installations, always strives to ensure the standards of installations are the highest and there is a strong focus on professionalism, workmanship, customer service and after sales advice. DW customers are insured from the moment they sign the contract and they also get a ten year guarantee on frames and a five year one on glass.

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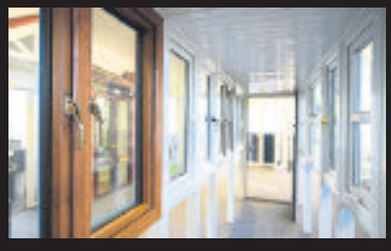

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Artwork gives pub a brush with fame

The Banksy-style image, that has appeared on the side of the Merry Boys pub, Willenhall Road, Wolverhampton

IT'S on a wall but very definitely off-the-wall. This image of a street cleaner sweeping up a Union flag is the latest piece of street art to perk up the city landscape.

The Merry Boys pub on Willenhall Road has been given the Banksy-inspired treatment. Owner Marston's has commissioned a series of paintings in the style of the famous graffiti artist as a marketing ploy.

Merry Boys manager Allan Price, aged 55, said despite the painting's position next to the entrance, not many punters had spotted the colourful illustration. But he said those that had had been scratching their heads over its meaning.

"We're not quite sure what it means but I'm sure there'll be a few witty comments about it, especially after people have had a pint or two," said Mr Price.

Supporters raise more than £1.5m to aid hospitals

MORE than £1.5million was raised by hospital charities in the Black Country during 2016 – providing vital support to patients.

The money was generated through fundraising, donations and legacies, with charity bosses declaring they have been 'overwhelmed' by the support.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Dudley Group NHS Foundations Trust generated £1,532,977 through charitable income during the last 12 months.

Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust generated a total income of £604,000 for 2016. Funding from donations and legacies accounted for £419,000.

SWBH NHS Trust – which runs Sandwell General Hospital in West Bromwich, Rowley Regis Hospital and Birmingham City Hospital, received £569,000 in charitable funds for 2016.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, received £359,977.25 through charitable incomes in 2016. A breakdown of the figures showed £212,026.08 was donated from the public, while fundraising totalled £126,155.36 and legacy funding generated £21,795.81.

Dr Paul Harrison, acting trust chief executive, said: "We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of those who support our charity. The charitable donations we receive allow us to provide extra comfort, equipment and facilities that otherwise would not be available."

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Get ahead in bid to find employment

JOBSEEKERS across Wolverhampton are being encouraged to go back to school to get ahead, thanks to a new course being offered by City of Wolverhampton College.

Following the success of its Get Ahead programme for youngsters, the college has created a similar course for those aged 19 and above.

The course, which runs over either two or four weeks, aims to give jobseekers some of the skills that employers are looking for and help them plan for their futures.

Participants will be able to improve their English, maths and computing skills, work on their CVs and receive interview practice as well as take part in work related training.

On successful completion of the programme students will be able to move on to other courses, a Prince's Trust programme, employment, traineeships or apprenticeships.

For more information call Lorna on 01902 317710 or 07825 054261 or email workbasedlearning@wolvcoll.ac.uk

Top marks for hygiene at city's food outlets

WOLVERHAMPTON is the best in the West Midlands when it comes to food hygiene, according to a new study.

The research looked at ratings given to eateries, including cafes, restaurants and food kiosks – following inspections carried out by local authorities under the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme. Food handling, ventilation, pest control and washing facilities are factors for the scoring, which is published by The Food Standards Agency.

A rating of one means major improvement is necessary, two means that improvement is necessary, whilst three means the establishment is generally satisfactory. Four means good and five indicates very good.

Wolverhampton had the highest percentage of businesses given five stars in the West Midlands, and fourth highest in the country.

Pubs

Of the area's 234 eateries, which do not include pubs serving food, 89.7 per cent (209) were given the five-star rating. Darlington was first with 94.4 per cent of eateries getting five stars.

In Cannock Chase 85.71 per cent of the area's eateries were rated five-star, while the same rating went to 72.92 per cent of 96 businesses in South Staffordshire, 44.83 per cent of 232 firms in Walsall, 56.38 per cent of 243 firms in

By Jessica Labhart

Sandwell and 54.44 per cent of 349 firms in Dudley.

The study also found that 12.6 per cent of eateries in Walsall were rated as low as zero, one and two. Sandwell had 10.29 per cent.

Dudley had 8.3 per cent firms with three-star ratings, matching Walsall which had the same percentage.

Cannock Chase had just 2.26 per cent, while Wolverhampton had 2.14 per cent businesses.

Andrew Firth, director of the company LoveMyVouchers.co.uk, which carried out the study, said: "With more people paying attention to food hygiene ratings these days, the rating that a restaurant is given can make or break the business.

"It is great to see that areas like Wolverhampton have such a high percentage of restaurants and cafes rated good and very good."

Food establishments are obliged to clearly display the rating they are given.

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One of Mr Wright's favourites Queen Square pictured from Darlington Street

Dudley Street in 1912 with shops like Hyam & Co

Beatties in the 1920s when customers could park right outside

Plenty of shoppers in Darlington Street

Postcards focus on city as it was then

MEMORY LANE

IT'S Wolverhampton but not as we know it now.

Victorian street scenes, a much-loved department store and traditional grocery shop make up just some of hundreds of postcards and photographs in Andrew Wright's collection.

A long-held interest in social history and an undying love for his hometown of Wolverhampton led to a hobby which has spanned several decades. Mr Wright, who grew up in Penn began collecting the memorabilia at the age of 18.

He used to buy the postcards from shops in Wolverhampton, including a book shop in King Street, and then later at fairs and other sales, where he spent anything from a couple of pounds to almost £30 depending on how interesting he found the subject.

He said he preferred the images of rare sights and the ones that gave an insight into people's lives such as the photograph of the staff lined up outside the front of George Mason's grocery shop in Victoria Street, which he believes dates back to 1910.

"I was just fascinated by this different world they showed. I was interested in how people lived, what their homes looked like, what they ate, where they worked – everything really. I was always interested in the details of people's lives," said pensioner Mr Wright, who now lives in Shrewsbury with his wife Lexie.

Some of the postcards were created from actual photographs dating back to the early 1900s while others are paintings including a rare glimpse inside the old indoor market and a picture of the outside of Beatties from the 1920s.

Mr Wright also has many contact prints which were originally taken by well-known photographer Bennett Clark. He had a studio in Darlington Street from the end of the 19th century to the 1960s, which produced thousands of photographs. When the famous studio closed its doors the glass plates were moved to Wolverhampton Library to be kept in the archives.

Mr Wright used to visit Frank Mason, chief librarian at the time, to borrow the glass plates and take them to be printed at a shop in Berry Street so he could get his own copies. It's something he says would never happen today."

His favourite of these is an early 1910s view of Queen Square from Darlington Street showing the Empire Palace music hall on the left and AM Deans shop on the right.

Although Mr Wright has not lived in the city since he was a teacher in the 1970s, he says it's still a big part of his life.

"I'm incredibly fond of Wolverhampton but I'm not sure I like how it's changed."

The George Mason store in Victoria Street around 1910

Bustling crowd at a fair held in West Park

Dudley Street pictured in 1910 – still busy with shoppers today

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Campaign just what the doctor ordered

THE growing threat of antibiotic resistance is the subject of a new city-wide campaign by the University of Wolverhampton.

The Antibiotic Guardian campaign aims to raise awareness of the problem of resistance to antibiotics. Students and staff will become 'Antibiotic Guardians', working closely with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust to promote conserving the use of the drugs so they remain effective.

As part of the work, pharmacy degree students from the university are also helping to develop educational resources for use in schools.

Steph Harris, director of human resources at the University of Wolverhampton, said: "This important campaign fits in very well with our Health & Wellbeing Charter and we are committed to raising awareness of antibiotic resistance amongst our staff and student communities.

Crucial

"Pharmacy students, in particular, are getting involved as part of their degree course work as it's crucial that they understand the possible effects of the growing resistance to antibiotics."

Angela Hopper, Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme Manager at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, said: "Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a global ticking time bomb which truly risks the future of humankind. Lots of diseases are caused by bugs (bacteria) that are becoming resistant to the antibiotics we currently take for granted.

"Our aim through this campaign is to make a local stand against these multi-resistant bugs. We aim to change the way prescribers and the public think about antibiotics and change their behaviours in order to preserve and protect this precious resource."

From left, student Tesha Gunputh, Issic Romel, Students' Union, Ranjit Khutan, head of public health at the University of Wolverhampton, students Elysia Newton, Syed Shah, Melissa Cartwright, Josh Vick and Steph Harris, director of human resources at the University of Wolverhampton

Sweets to be checked out

THE Co-op Group is to remove sweets with marketing and packaging aimed at children from its store checkouts and provide a range of healthier snacks.

The assurance has been given to the West Midlands representative on the Co-op Members' Council, David Hallam, a former director of the international diabetes federation and member of the European Parliament.

Mr Hallam said: "This is good news for parents who dread having their children making a scene for unhealthy sweets at checkouts.

"I just hope every other convenience chain follows suit. Too many sweets represent a massive threat to children's health. It's not just about teeth but excessive sugar represents a threat to long term health with obesity, heart problems and diabetes in later life."

David Hallam said that he would be interested to hear whether parents thought the ban at checkouts was helpful.

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Seesaws' Penn nursery is housed in a beautiful Georgian property in a quiet residential street. Ofsted reported that Penn nursery "is an inclusive nursery, where each child is recognised as unique and staff ensure that their individual needs are met".

Merridale nursery is located in a large converted house with a purpose-built extension, providing six large and airy suites for the children. Ofsted reported that Merridale's "inclusion practice is very well promoted so that all children have their welfare needs met and achieve as far as they can regardless of their background. There are staff who speak more than one language to ensure those with English as an additional language are supported".

Both nurseries are well equipped with a wide range of age-appropriate toys and equipment, well-stocked libraries and sensory rooms to encourage children to develop their imaginations.

Each nursery has several beautiful and secure gardens, designed to encourage children's imagination during play, which you can view on the website.

Each nursery runs a before and after school club for siblings, serving most schools in the localities. Seesaws also runs a Kool Kids Holiday Club, for children aged 4 to 12, offering a range of exciting activities, day trips around the region and creative play during all the school holidays. Our prices are inclusive of meals and trips.

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For more information about us, see our website at www.seesawsdaynurseries.com where you can take virtual tours of our nurseries and gardens, explore our Funzone and learn about employment opportunities and training. You can also meet us on Facebook.

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www.seesawsdaynurseries.com

Dancing Grannies ready to take bite of the Big Apple

START spreading the news – the Dancing Grannies have decided to have a rest from the Edinburgh Fringe this year and pop over to the Big Apple.

The Grannies, also known as Black Country comedy act the Fizzogs, will be jetting across the pond in the summer to strut their stuff on the streets of New York city.

The move follows numerous requests from American fans who are among more than 300 million people to have viewed the Grannies' dance routines on social media. Now the Fizzogs are looking for sponsorship to help fund the trip.

Member Deb Nicholls said: "The plan is to take America by storm. We aim to flashmob in New York this summer as the Americans keep asking when we are coming over.

"It'll cost an arm and a leg to get there so we are looking for sponsorship. If there are any potential sponsors out there and you feel The Dancing Grannies need more support then get in touch with us at info@thefizzogs.com and we'll have a natter."

Touring

The Fizzogs have already been booked to perform their Grannies routines at the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix in April.

The opportunity arose after the performers caught the eye of a talent scout from the Middle East at the Edinburgh Fringe during the summer.

Closer to home their new show Suck It And See is currently touring around the Midlands.

For tickets info see http://www.thefizzogs.com

The Grannies have been booked to perform at the Bahrain Grand Prix in April

Special note with a new piano concerto

A NEW piano concerto written by a Wolverhampton man is to be performed as part of a special concert later this year.

Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra is to deliver its latest concert on March 11at St Peter's church from 7.30pm, and will include the premiere of a new piano concerto written by local composer, Rory Freckleton.

Rory's music has been played by the orchestra before and his piano concerto is a new piece, in a very attractive and tuneful style. Rory plays the viola in the 75-strong orchestra.

The orchestra performs at least three concerts a year in Wolverhampton, and alongside Rory's new work, will be playing one of the most famous pieces of music in its next concert. Gustav Holst's Planets Suite was written during the First World War, and first played 99 years ago. The growth of the Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra over the last few years has given the opportunity for these talented players to tackle such large scale pieces, and this is the first time the orchestra will have played the Planets Suite.

Buggy was used as a battering ram – court

A COUPLE used a pram carrying their 13-month-old baby as a battering ram when violence flared after a drinking spree, a judge heard.

by John Scott

Alexander Murphy repeatedly pushed the buggy into the legs of a group of teenage boys, while his partner, Chantelle Pratley, smashed a can into the face of one of them, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The drunk pair were walking with three friends when they encountered the youths near the King George V Memorial playing fields where the 14 to 16-year-olds had just finished a kick about.

Aggressive

Pratley, aged 25, asked one for a cigarette and became surly and aggressive when it was explained that they didn't smoke, said Mr Walter Bealby, prosecuting.

Murphy, 26, drove the pram into the ankles of the group so hard the baby was almost thrown onto the Tarmac.

The defendants feared police were about to be called when one youth produced a mobile phone.

"Pratley ran up behind a youth and smashed a beer can into his face, cutting the bridge of his nose," said Mr Bealby.

"Pratley's friends jumped on the bandwagon with punches and kicks delivered in all directions. Murphy pushed the pram at full tilt into people before abandoning it at the mouth of a junction."

One of the three men involved pulled a knife from his waistband, but was so drunk he dropped the weapon on the ground and the attackers dispersed at about 9pm on September 9, 2014.

Police looking for the culprits later saw the defendants walking with the baby in a pram and arrested them.

Pratley, of Walnut Close, Bilston, pleaded guilty to affray and assault and was given a 14 month jail term suspended for two years with 150 hours unpaid work. Murphy, of Wordsworth Road, Willenhall, admitted affray and received a 13 and a half month sentence similarly suspended with the same unpaid work.

Recorder Jason MacAdam told Murphy: "You are pathetic using the pushchair to batter people when you were in drink but I cannot lock you up because Pratley was the leading participant and, if I lock her up, that will undoubtedly cause harm and distress to your son and enough children have already suffered in this case."

Fury over 'crazy' rule on uninsured drivers

UKIP'S transport spokesman has slammed 'crazy' EU rules which mean uninsured motorists must be given compensation if their cars are damaged.

The Government has admitted it is powerless to prevent the new regulations from being introduced in the UK, as long as Britain remains part of the EU.

West Midlands MEP Jill Seymour said: "It is yet another piece of crazy, nonsensical legislation being imposed on the UK, which flies in the face of common sense and penalises the ordinary, law abiding man and woman on the street."

Mrs Seymour said the new law, which is due to take effect in the UK from March, could increase motor insurance premiums and claims.

"This scheme is using the money of honest premium-paying motorists to compensate those who are blatantly breaking the law," she added.

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Church closes for a £62,000 tile revamp

Work to start at St Benedict Biscop Church

AN historic church has temporarily shut so work to restore its tiled floor to its former glory can be completed. St Benedict Biscop Church in Wombourne can trace its origins to the 10th century and was originally built to pray for the souls of those killed at the Battle of Tettenhall.

The current structure was built in the 19th century but in recent years its tile flooring has fallen into disrepair. Work was carried out in 2014 to replace many of the broken tiles with modern alternatives which were identical in appearance.

And now further work has been commissioned which will allow the project to be completed. Specialist tilers will be brought in to construct and lay traditionally-made black and red tiles. The church, opposite the village green, will be closed for three months while the repairs are carried out.

Upkeep

In the meantime the Sunday congregation will attend go to St Benedict's daughter church, The Venerable Bede in Giggetty Lane.

David Crathorne, who is responsible for the upkeep, said: "Our church is a listed building dating back to 1850. We have worked closely with the Victorian Society to ensure the tiles are a close match to the originals laid when the church was built.

"We estimate we will be open again by Easter and we are very grateful for the patience and understanding of all those who enjoy worshipping with us and using the church as a base for their activities. The £62,000 repair project has been made possible with a £20,000 grant from the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, ICET.

Report by Rob Cox

It is one of many community projects ICET has funded through the Landfill Communities Fund, LCF, which offers funding to projects that benefit communities living within 10 miles of a landfill site.

Angela Haymonds, Secretary of ICET said: "This is a very popular church and an important community hub. The trustees of ICET were delighted to fund this project and help to restore the floor in the nave to its former glory."

The church sees more than 28,000 people visit each year.

David Crathorne, Chair of Fabric for the church

The alter of the church, which has origins in the 10th century

Showcase of dresses for brides

AN historic house is to host a bridal showcase next weekend.

Blakelands Country House at Halfpenny Green, near Wombourne, will be showcasing a range of bridal gowns on January 29.The event will be in the Victorian Barn from midday to 4pm. Admission is free.

Owners Paul and Heather Morgan, will be on hand to give brides help and advice.

Important

Heather Morgan said: "We realise that choosing a wedding dress is probably one of the most important decisions for a bride to make and therefore wanted to give them the opportunity to come and try on some of the latest wedding gowns, in an actual wedding setting."

Blakelands has been the home of the Morgan family for the last 33 years and has been a wedding venue since 1992.

It's a talk on the wild side

A TALK entitled My Wild Year will take place at the library at Wombourne Community Centre next Thursday.

The event, hosted by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, features Roger Pannell's adventures at home and abroad in search of the very best in wildlife.

The talk starts at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome for a charge of £2.

ADVERTISEMENT

Former midwife's smile reborn

'I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth'

Former Dudley community midwife Vicki Ball, left, is full of smiles after getting new teeth and an implant solution to a long-standing stabilisation problem. 'I love my new teeth,' she says

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute. "I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her first tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't have done more to save her own teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable.

Researching options

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crispy fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicky says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my whole life around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable."

A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial features. "From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth.

Such a relief

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.

Steven says: "Mrs Ball needed dentures that would offer proper support to her facial features.

"These days the term 'facelift' dentures is banded about. The claim is spurious, but with the correct setting of teeth, the effect is to lift the facial structures in the same way natural healthy gums and teeth support tissues and muscles. I'm very please to have been part of giving a new birth the Vicki's smile."

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It's Great – Gatsby events aid charity

NEARLY £3,000 has been raised for a charity in Wolverhampton. The Haven, which provides refuge accommodation and resettlement support for women and children affected by domestic violence, received the donation from the Grand Station.

The Wolverhampton venue held a Gatsby-themed dinner every weekend in December, allowing the Haven to hold a raffle during the meals.

The conference and events venue, at the old Low Level train station, held a separate night on December 3 for The Haven and gave £5 from every ticket sold towards the charity.

Amazing

The total raised was £2,845 and Jade Secker, Senior Community Fundraiser at The Haven, said: "The events were amazing to be a part of, giving the charity a lot of exposure to local people who may happen to be in dire need of our services but be unaware of our existence."

"We would also like to thank all of the guests that attended the Grand Gatsby parties and made a donation."

If you would like to know ways in which you can help or get involved, contact The Haven's Fundraising team on give@havenrefuge.org.uk or call 01902 904677.

Jade Secker and Hanifa Blakemore-Razaq from The Haven, who were presented with £2,845 by Rami Rait and Sarb Basran at the Grand Station, Wolverhampton

Little things that can make big difference

AN event highlighting the #SmallGoodThings happening in Wolverhampton is to take place next month.

#SmallGoodThings is at the Bob Jones Community Hub, Bromley Street, Blakenhall, from 10am-4pm on February 14. It is an opportunity for people to find out more about services available to them and think about the little things they can do to support others.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, leader of Wolverhampton Council and chair of Wolverhampton's health and wellbeing board, said: "We know that even little things can make a big difference to a person's quality of life.

"This can be taking part in an activity or going on a day out, developing a new hobby or interest or simply enjoying social interaction, which many people go without on a regular basis."

#SmallGoodThings will feature a marketplace where organisations can promote their services alongside a range of interactive events to share ideas, including a speed dating-style session where individuals and groups can get to know more about what's on offer in the city.

The event will be followed by community roadshows.

Community clean-up as 'dirty' cash clawed back

WEST Midlands Police clawed back more than £2 million of 'dirty money' from criminals in less than a year – with the cash then dished out to help community groups.

The cash has been paid back under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), which gives forces the power to seize assets or cash from crooks that is believed to have been accrued through criminality.

by David Cosgrove

West Midlands Police and the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) have worked together to recoup the funds. Criminals who don't pay up face extended jail terms.

Between the start of April and December last year a total of £1,929,195 was handed back by 96 offenders after crime profits were pursued by the force.

Ploughed

The money recovered through confiscation or secured through agreeing its forfeiture is ploughed into the force's Active Citizens Fund and crime prevention and community projects.

Investigators with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) are also using POCA to get back cash lost to fraud.

One of those stripped of crime cash was Birmingham man Ashley Nathaniel Wilkin who officers initially stopped for a minor traffic offence – but who was later found to be running a drugs network.

He was stopped by police in Court Lane, Erdington, and a search of his Mercedes revealed a wrap of cocaine; further searches of his home in Anstey Field uncovered £12,500 worth of the drug.

The 30-year-old was jailed for three-and-a-half years and a POCA investigation concluded in October last year when a judge ordered him to pay back £109,000.

Other examples included a Vietnamese cannabis grower forced to hand back more than £18,000 and a man who stole money from gambling machines having to return £42,000.

DS Paddy Gillece, from Force CID economic crime unit, said: "We will always seek to prevent criminals benefiting from ill-gotten gains and look to claw back their 'dirty money' through the courts.

"By taking away the profits we can break the cycle of criminal behaviour and those who don't pay back the money can face extra time behind bars."

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "The seizure of almost £2 million is an excellent result by West Midlands Police and that money will transform neighbourhoods."

It's high note as three school bands hit gold

MEMBERS of three school bands from Wolverhampton have received prestigious awards for their music.

St Peter's Collegiate School Training Band, as well as their Concert Band and Big Band, travelled to attend their first National Concert Band Festival regional event in Nottingham.

The bands performed in front of an audience comprising young musicians, band directors and adjudicators.

Following the performance, the three music groups were all awarded Gold certificates for musical excellence, only one level short of the highest accolade.

Following their achievement, the bands will now appear at the next stage of the festival, the National Finals, in Warwick in April.

The groups are to perform at St Mary and St Luke's Church, Shareshill, on Saturday at 7.30pm. Tickets available from St Peter's School finance office on 01902 558 600.

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Howzat! Student wins place at a top US uni

Ayush Malik, 18, is completing his A-levels at Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy

A STUDENT from Wolverhampton has won a place at a prestigious American university after beating off competition from more than 1,500 other hopefuls, and plans to teach his US colleagues how to play cricket.

Ayush Malik, 18, who is completing his A-levels at Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy, has also won a grant for his four-year course at the University of Richmond.

He was selected after taking part in the Sutton Trust's US Programme, which encourages academically talented, low and middle income British students to consider studying at American universities.

Last summer Ayush, of Wem Gardens in Wednesfield, spent a week living on campus and visiting a number of other US universities to complete admission tests.

He is the first person in his family to apply to university after arriving in the UK from India aged 12 in 2011. He was the first ever student head of his school's council and is also a sixth-form senior ambassador.

He is a captain of Fordhouses Cricket Club.

Crook who posed as a workman gets 5 years

A CROOK who posed as a workman to prey on the elderly has been jailed for five years. Distraction burglar Phillip Purcell struck three times in five days.

He posed as a workman to trick his way into the targeted homes of women aged between 79 and 87, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

by John Scott

The 22-year-old, and an accomplice who has not been caught, stole handbags from two of the victims.

Purcell, who had previous convictions for similar offences, called at the 87-year-old's flat in Deans Road, East Park on August 20.

Mr Philip Brunt, prosecuting said: "She heard somebody say something about there being problems with the drains and needing to get into her home. She let the two men in and they went into the living room."

After they left the woman discovered that her handbag, with £60 cash inside had been stolen. It also contained the only picture she had of herself with two brothers who both died young. She told police. "This has left me very angry and feeling vulnerable."

Five days later Purcell posed as a council workman when he called at an address in Baldwin Street, Bradley where the 79-year-old occupant walked with the aid of a Zimmer frame.

Mr Brunt said: "When they had gone she realised that two handbags containing an unspecified amount of money were missing. She said later: "I feel my whole life has been ripped apart."

The same day Purcell tried again, offering to clean the gutters of a disabled woman in Walter Road but was foiled by the 82-year-old who kept a close watch of him.

Miss Jodie Smith, defending, said: "His life has been marred by an addiction to cocaine." Purcell from Valley Road, Smethwick, admitted the three burglaries.

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Children make call for better sex education

Owl's that for a meeting

MP Gavin Williamson meets Barney the white-breasted British barn owl at Wombourne Community Centre

ONE wise old owl met another when MP Gavin Williamson popped into Wombourne library and community centre.

The member for South Staffordshire was delighted to be reunited with Barney, a rescue barn owl he first met at Rodbaston where the bird is being temporarily housed.

The purpose of his visit was to receive two cheques on behalf of the World Owl Trust of which he was recently named patron.

The money, £7,500 in all, will go towards building the charity's £1 million new base at Himley Hall which will provide homes for 200 birds. The community centre in Church Road is hosting an exhibition about the planned move. On Saturday, visitors could have their photographs taken with Barney and other owls in the trust's care.

The white-chested barn owl, which is female despite its name, was found in a serious state of starvation in Gospel End, Sedgley, 18 months ago after being abandoned.

Alan Peace, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "Gavin enjoyed being reacquainted with the owls, and Barney in particular."

SEVEN in 10 youngsters in the West Midlands think the government should ensure all children have school lessons on sex and relationships, new figures reveal.

Three quarters of those asked believe all children would be safer if they had age-appropriate classes on sex and education, according to the poll for children's charity Barnardo's.

The results support calls by the charity for the government to introduce compulsory age-appropriate sex and relationships education through the Children and Social Work Bill.

Almost all of West Midlands children surveyed said it was important for them to understand the dangers of being online so they can stay safe. Some 85 per cent agreed that young people would have healthier relationships if they understood why it's important to respect each other.

Digital

Hugh Sherriffe, Barnardo's regional director, said: "The overwhelming majority of children who answered our poll believe they would be safer if they had age-appropriate sex and relationships lessons in school.

"It's time to listen to children who are clearly telling us that they need help in understanding the digital dangers and the risks of sharing images of themselves with strangers. Online grooming is a very real danger facing all children and nearly half of the girls polled said they were worried about strangers contacting them online.

"It's time for the Government to make sure we give all children the knowledge that will help keep them safe."

Chairman of the women and equalities committee Maria Miller said: "These findings underline the importance of ensuring all schoolchildren have compulsory lessons on sex and relationships appropriate for their age."

Barnardo's ambassador, Girls Aloud's Nicola Roberts said: "It's essential children know how to protect themselves online."

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Heartbreak as parents' gravestone missing

A WOMAN has been left distraught over the loss of her parent's gravestone. Andrea Bradley had the stone removed so her brother's name could be added.

Mrs Bradley, of Clarence Road, Bilston, paid GW Kirkland & Son to add Paul Blewitt's name to the memorial.

The 54-year-old lost her brother in 2005 following an epileptic fit. She said she paid for her parents' stone to be removed from its place in Bilston Cemetery in 2012 so her brother's name could be added, and thought the company was working to make the changes. But, in late 2015, she discovered the company had closed, and no one contacted her about the stone or to let her know its whereabouts.

Sooner

Mrs Bradley said: "I feel really upset. I knew I should have followed it up sooner, but I just thought they would do the work and let me know when the stone was being put back on.

"I wanted the stone to say 'Mom reunited with Dad' and then something like 'Son reunited with Mom and Dad.'

"I have no idea where it is now. It's upsetting because I've got nowhere to lay my flowers."

GW Kirkland & Son was based on Wellington Road, Bilston. When it closed, Hopcraft Memorials Ltd, of Lord Street, Wolverhampton, put their contact number on the premises for people looking for memorial services to get in touch with them.

Hopcraft employee Nora Tozer said: "We weren't involved in taking on any work that was formerly Kirkland's. So I'm afraid we're unable to help in tracing the stone."

No one from Kirkland & Son was available to comment.

Andrea Bradley and her son Owen, aged 30, where the gravestone stood

Woolly way to aid campaign

A CHARITY is urging people to take and share photos of themselves wearing woolly clothing to help raise awareness of fuel poverty.

The charity Turn2us is asking people in West Midlands to support its No Cold Homes fuel poverty campaign. The aim is to raise awareness of the help that is available for those struggling to heat their homes.

As part of the campaign, people are being asked to share images of themselves in woolly clothes on social media with the hashtag #ShowUsYourWoolly, alongside the campaign hashtag #NoColdHomes.

The appeal comes as studies show that despite 355,090 households in West Midlands receiving the Winter Fuel Payment to help with the energy costs last winter, the charity says that many will cut back on heating their home because they are struggling financially. For advice go to www.turn2us.org.uk/About-Us/Our-campaigns/No-Cold-Homes

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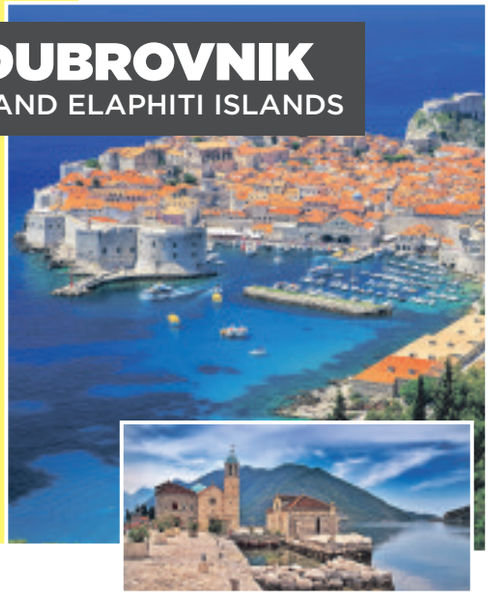

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Nurse pals treated to reunion after 27 years

"IT was like time had stood still."

These were the words of nurse Alison Darby, who organised a 30-year reunion with her training colleagues from the late1980s.

Around 15 nurses attended the event at Patshull Park Hotel, near Pattingham.

The nurses began their training at Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital in January 1987, with many moving around the country following graduation.

Thanks to Press coverage, a former colleague from California was alerted to the reunion and travelled across the globe to attend. Another nurse from Australia was also at the gathering.

Mrs Darby, aged 48, from Finchfield, said: "An ad in the paper caught the attention of the nephew of Anita Chowdhary who had now moved to California. He called her and told her about the reunion and she came over.

"We also had Joan Thomas from Australia and it was amazing to hear what work she had gone on to do with cancer patients in Oz.

"It was incredibly nostalgic as it had been around 27 years since we had all been in a room together."

Mrs Darby now works as a school nurse in South Staffordshire, with others taking their careers around the country to Bradford, Bath and Oxford. Only three had moved on from nursing due to family commitments.

Mrs Darby used Facebook and the NHS site to track down her former colleagues.

"We definitely intend on staying in touch now and making this a regular occurrence," she said.

Anita Chowdhary, of California, and organiser Alison Darby, with ex-colleagues at the reunion

Scheme to help the jobless is extended

A PILOT scheme to help unemployed people in Wolverhampton back into work is to be extended because of its success. The employability programme is aimed at providing vital skills, training and support for city residents to secure jobs.

The council's economic inclusion service worked with Yoo Recruit, the council's recruitment company, to offer customised training, skills development and support, including work experience opportunities with the council.

Training was also delivered in partnership with City of Wolverhampton College, Wolverhampton Council and Access to Business and Job Change.

At the end of last year, 15 unemployed residents completed the programme and some of the Yoo Recruit vacancies now available for the trainees to apply for. Peter Holmes, Yoo Recruit recruitment manager, said: "We are delighted to have been involved in this initiative."

The next programme begins next month. Contact Karen.Sahota@wolverhampton.gov.uk or call 07881 358679 or Manjit.Cheema@wolverhampton.gov.uk, call 07717 733051.

Life-saving dog bit boy on his way to nursery

A GERMAN Shepherd dog bit a four-year-old boy as he walked to nursery with his mother, leaving him with a 'gaping' gash on his arm. But the dog had previously saved the lives of its owner and his son from a house fire.

The dog attack took place at the back of flats in Ellerton Walk, Park Village, outside the dog owner's home on November 24.

Report by Rob Cox

Renata Pucula, aged 48, appeared before magistrates in Walsall where she admitted being in charge of a dog dangerously out of control causing injury. Magistrates will now have the final say on what happens to the dog, which could be destroyed.

Mrs Kelly Crowe, prosecuting, said the boy had been walking to nursery with his mother and grandmother when they encountered the black German Shepherd.

Fear

She added: "The victim's mother has a fear of dogs so she stood still so she could keep an eye on the dog.

"As she walked past the dog was on its lead, but when she turned around to see where it was she saw the dog bite her son.

"The dog bit the four-year-old on his left arm and pulled him to the ground. His mother managed to get him free and the defendant managed to pull the dog away.

"An ambulance took the child to hospital and he received treatment for his arm and had butterfly stitches. The officer there took pictures showing two bite marks the largest of which was two to three inches long.

"In the officers statement he gave a description of the gaping gash wound where the flesh can be seen."

Mr Vaughn Whistance, defending, said his client had made a mistake in having the dog on a retractable lead. He added: "My client has been in the UK for 11 years having come here from Poland.

"The destruction of the dog is a very emotive issue for my client because they have had the dog for just over two years and about 18 months ago while she was at work her husband was asleep in bed at home and her son was upstairs with his headphones on and there was a chip pan fire and a fire within the house.

"It was only the actions of the dog that prevented loss of life and that was confirmed by fire officers who attended the scene.

Pucula will next appear at Walsall Magistrates Court on February 2 to be told her sentence and the fate of her dog.

Award tribute for dementia services

DEMENTIA services in Wolverhampton, which support 3,600 people living with the condition, have been named runner up in the Dementia Friendly Organisation of the Year category at the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friendly Awards.

The annual event celebrates the achievements of individuals and organisations in creating dementia-friendly communities around the UK. It recognises the efforts of Wolverhampton Council, its partners and members of the Wolverhampton Dementia Action Alliance in making the city as welcoming and supportive as possible to people living with dementia, and to giving them and their carers more choice and control over their lives.

Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, Wolverhampton council's cabinet member for adult services, said: "The council and its partners are determined to make Wolverhampton as dementia-friendly as possible."

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Call to bring museum back into use quickly

DUDLEY'S former museum building must be brought back into use as soon as possible, council bosses say.

Chiefs insisted the historic building in the town centre, which controversially closed its doors just before Christmas after more than 100 years, should not be left empty for any longer than necessary.

It has also been revealed that collections from the St James's Road museum and art gallery, which have been moved to the Dudley Archives in Tipton Road, will be back on display by August. This is so the award-winning new venue will be ready to accommodate school trips from September.

The council decided to close the museum in order to make savings of around £150,000, concluding that it was no longer fit for purpose. A report ahead of a meeting of Dudley Council's overview and scrutiny management board today (Thursday) reveals the building is intended for staff training and conferences. This currently takes place at Saltwells Education Development Centre, Bowling Green Road, Netherton, which is being considered as a potential site for housing.

The former museum and art gallery building in Dudley town centre

Collection

The packing up of exhibits at Dudley Museum is expected to take three months.

The report also reveals plans for the Brooke Robinson collection of artwork and artefacts donated by the former MP, be displayed on the ground floor of the existing museum building in the town centre.

The report to the board calls for "the relocation to be co-ordinated to ensure that the vacated building is brought back into active use without unnecessary delay and as soon as reasonably practicable". It adds: "The necessary refurbishment works should be undertaken as soon as practicable."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "These plans will ensure it still has an important role."

An open afternoon is taking place at Dudley Archives on Tuesday, from 2 to 4pm, where visitors can give their views.

It has been revealed that part of the Duncan Edwards football memorabilia collection, which had been housed at the museum for the past decade, will be loaned back to Dudley by the collection's prospective new owners Manchester United.

The council says that the club had agreed 'in principle' to a loan deal over the collection, which includes the Dudley-born football hero's England caps, shirts, medals and trophies. According to council bosses the Edwards family are in negotiations over the sale of the collection to the club. Any items loaned back would go on display at Dudley Archives.

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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, January 19, 2017

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The Royal Astor Dance Club
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Darlaston.

Declan McKenna

Wednesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Longlisted for the BBC's Sound of 2017, this Hertfordshire teenager is a tip for the top with his quirky pop. Check out recent single Isombard.
Visit **hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk**

King Creosote

Saturday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
Fife singer-songwriter Kenny Anderson (AKA King Creosote, above) brings his distinctive modern folk, complete with bagpipes, in the wake of latest album Astronaut Meets Appleman.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Primitive London feat Juice Aleem

Wednesday, 8pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Birmingham rapper Juice Aleem (pictured), formerly of hip-hop trio New Flesh, joins the Anglo-French imaginary soundtrack quartet. Support from electronic outfit Delta Autumn. Visit **bit.ly/primitivelondonftjuicealeem**

Brendan Cole - All Night Long

Thursday (Jan 26), 7.30pm
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
The Strictly Come Dancing professional brings his latest choreographed spectacular out on tour with lots of dancers plus a band and singers on stage.
Visit **www.grandtheatre.co.uk**

The US rockers hope their fans will enjoy A Day To Remember at their concert in Birmingham

Energetic frontman Jeremy McKinnon

McKinnon delivers emotional material in Bad Vibrations

This band will be a name to remember

IF the musical genre metalcore is a mystery to you, then Florida's A Day To Remember may be the biggest band you've never heard of.

But this pop-punk outfit from Ocala have become massive Stateside since releasing their debut And Their Name Was Treason in 2005.

They've sold more than a million units, racked up over 400 million Spotify streams and 500 million YouTube views, garnered two gold-selling albums and singles (and one silver album in the UK) and sold out entire continental tours (including their own curated Self Help Festival). They have amassed a global fanbase whose members number in the millions.

All of which explains why Rolling Stone called them "An Artist You Need To Know."

On Wednesday they play the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham with support from fellow Florida rockers New Found Glory, Wrexham pop-punkers Neck Deep and Kent emo outfit Moose Blood.

For new album Bad Vibrations, the quintet of vocalist Jeremy McKinnon, guitarists Kevin Skaff and Neil Westfall, bassist Joshua Woodard and drummer Alex Shelnutt switched gears and headed for uncharted territory. Their path included a loose and much more collaborative songwriting process, one that also saw them recording for the first time with producers Bill Stevenson (Descendents, Black Flag) and Jason Livermore (Rise Against, NOFX).

Although the album is being released on the band's own ADTR Records (like 2013's Common Courtesy), this record marks their first distribution deal with Epitaph and is the first time they've worked with Grammy winner Andy Wallace (Foo Fighters, Slayer).

"We completely changed the way we wrote, recorded and mixed this album," says vocalist McKinnon. "It was one of the most unique recording experiences we've ever had.

"We rented a cabin in the Colorado mountains and just wrote with the five of us together in a room, which was the polar opposite of the last three albums we've made. We just let things happen organically and in the moment.

"I think it forever changed the way we make music. And working with Bill was an awesome experience. He was a bit hard to read at first, so I think we subconsciously pushed ourselves harder to try to impress him. As a result, we gave this album everything we had."

Kinetic

Recorded at Stevenson's Fort Collins-based Blasting Room Studios, Bad Vibrations channels the kinetic energy that found A Day To Remember named "The Best Live Band Of 2015" by Alternative Press.

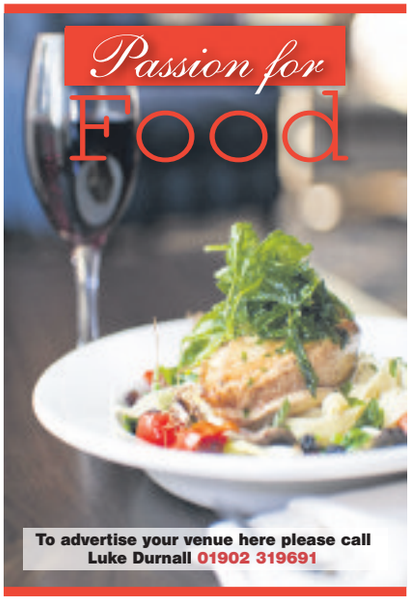
The band decided to forgo digitally driven production and focus on live recording. "These days it seems like a lot of heavy sounding music is heading more and more in a digital direction," says McKinnon. "That's not necessarily a bad thing but we wanted to go the opposite way and make something that's aggressive but has more of a natural flow and feel to it."

Ultimately, McKinnon says that this particular album-making process breathed new life into the band. He adds: "Breaking out of our comfort zone and working in a less controlled way, we ended up making something that feels good to everyone, and we can't wait to go out and tour on it."

By powering Bad Vibrations with so much raw passion, A Day To Remember ultimately deliver some of their most emotionally intense material to date.

"I'm singing about the things that are frustrating me," says Mckinnon. "But at some point there's an arc within the song. It's almost like I'm giving advice to another person about whatever I'm struggling with, but I think I'm really just trying to give that advice to myself."

The band tackles duplicity and deception (on the frenzied 'Same About You'), the destructive nature of judgmental behaviour (on 'Justified', a track shot through with soaring harmonies and sprawling guitar work), addiction (on the darkly charged 'Reassemble'), and friendship poisoned by unchecked ego (on 'Bullfight,' a track with a classic-punk chorus).



The Pretty Reckless return with album number three

New York rock band The Pretty Reckless, fronted by Taylor Momsen, are back with recent album Who You Selling For and a Birmingham gig

AMERICAN rock band The Pretty Reckless, fronted by former Gossip Girl actress Taylor Momsen, are in concert in Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday), following the release of third studio album Who You Selling For.

Released in October, that album was the follow-up to Going to Hell, which included one of the biggest rock songs of 2014, Heaven Knows.

The latest album features songs with bluesy undertones, written by singer-guitarist Momsen and lead guitarist Ben Phillips, and is produced by the band's longtime collaborator Kato Khandwala, who has also worked with Blondie, Paramore and My Chemical Romance.

Formed in 2009, The Pretty Reckless released their debut album Light Me Up in 2010 scoring legions of fans worldwide, but it was their second album Going to Hell that really established the band, and Momsen as a creditable rock singer as well as actress and model.

Despite feeling the physical and emotional demands from their epic two-year tour supporting Going to Hell, Momsen and Phillips jumped right into writing the songs for the new album.

"We had so much we wanted to say, it was like shaking a can of soda on tour and then when we started writing we cracked the seal," says Momsen. "The touring life is very isolating. You look at the world through a bus or airplane window. But music is the healing factor. It saved us – again."

The Pretty Reckless are at Birmingham's O2 Institute, Digbeth, doors open 6.30pm.

Voice of rock at the Robin

CANNOCK rock star Glenn Hughes has spoken of his excitement at coming back to the UK this month for a tour.

The legendary singer and bassist, who is currently in the studio in LA recording a new studio album with rock supergroup Black Country Communion, has released an official statement to his fans about touring the UK this month.

He cancelled a similar tour which was set to take place last November just weeks before it started after a fall-out with support band Living Colour, who removed themselves from the bill at short notice.

Hughes will return to the Black Country on Monday night for a show at Bilston's Robin 2.

The California-based rocker said: "I'm thrilled to be coming over to tour the UK and Europe this month and February.

"My band will now be a four piece. On guitar is Søren Andersen, on drums Pontus Engborg, and on keyboards Jay Boe. Song selections will be a mix from my new album Resonate, and from my well of historic songs through the decades.

"This tour is all about rock and what it means to us all, including my band, and to my fans and friends. Let's get 2017 going with a killer night for rock lovers, movers and shakers. See you down the front."

Previously Hughes has fronted Deep Purple, Trapeze and more recently supergroup Black Country Communion. He was also the voice of The KLF's hit What Time Is Love?

Hughes will be supported by Walsall band Stone Broken. Tickets cost £22.50 in advance or £24.50 on the door. Contact 01902 401 211 or visit www.therobin.co.uk

Stray are celebrating 50 years together with gig

ROCK four-piece Stray are celebrating 50 years together with a gig at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Sunday.

Four school friends formed the group in London in 1966, releasing their first album in 1970 and have been performing ever since. Still led by guitarist Del Bromham, the band play a melodic mix of hard rock and heavy blues.

The Superskas play the venue tomorrow (Friday), there is a charity gig by The Busby Babes on Saturday and Glenn Hughes plays on Monday (see above).

On Tuesday there is blues from Lil' Jimmy Reed, and more blues from Eric Sardinas on Wednesday, and then its jump 'n' jive 1940s and '50s R&B from King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, supported by Ricky Cool and The In Crowd, at the Mount Pleasant venue on Thursday.

Tributes taking over with feast of nostalgia

THE New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham is preparing for soundalikes next weekend when it holds three consecutive tribute concerts, starting on Thursday with The Bowie Experience.

The two-hour concert celebrates the music of David Bowie, who would have been 70 last week if not for his death a year ago. The band is fronted by Laurence Knight in costume in several Bowie guises.

On January 27 Someone Like You features the Adele songbook, performed in concert by Kate Markham. The Carpenters Story on January 28 features Claire Furley as Karen Carpenter, the velvet-voiced 1970s singer who performed in The Carpenters with her brother Richard.

Also on Saturday, January 28, the Robin 2 in Bilston presents the ultimate 70s night out with Bootleg Abba and Bee Gees Fever.

Orchestra play score alongside Blood epic

THE 50-piece London Contemporary Orchestra will be performing the score by Jonny Greenwood for Oscar-winning movie There Will Be Blood live alongside a screening of the epic at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Sunday, February 5.

The soundtrack, by the Oxford-born guitarist and keyboardist from acclaimed experimental rock band Radiohead, added to the success of director Paul Thomas Anderson's drama set during the California oil boom of the early 1900s.

Described as a 'masterpiece' by some critics, the film won Academy Awards for actor Daniel Day-Lewis and cinematographer Robert Elswitt.

Tickets cost from £28 to £48 for the 7pm performance. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 4949.

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Sat 4 Feb	Torquay & Exeter	£59
Sat 4 Feb	Emmerdale Studio Experience	£99
Sat 11 Feb	Beautiful Windermere & Skipton Market	£59
Sat 11 Feb	Canterbury & Riverside London	£79
Sat 11 Feb	Eastbourne & Brighton	£59
Sat 11 Feb	Norwich, Yarmouth & The Broads	£59
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Fri 10 Feb	7 Lemon Festival & Italian Riviera Inclusive	£339
Fri 10 Feb	4 Paris Weekend Superdeal (B&B)	£149
Fri 10 Feb	7 Venice Carnival Spectacular (2 evening meals)	£299
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Sat 1 July	£139

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2 DAY SHOWTIME BREAKS

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Sat 4 Feb	London & Star Wars Identities at the O2 (B&B)	£99
Sat 4 Feb	Showaddywaddy - Live in Manchester	£99
Sat 4 Feb	Stand By Me - The Ben E King Revue	£99
Sat 4 Feb	Strictly Come Dancing - The Live Tour!	£119
Sat 11 Jan	The Story of The Bee Gees	£89
Wed 15 Feb	Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom & Blackpool Funtime	£79
Sat 18 Feb	Blood Brothers & Liverpool Special	£99
Sat 18 Feb	Motown The Musical - London Showtime (B&B)	£139
Sat 18 Feb	School of Rock - London Showtime (B&B)	£139
Fri 24 Feb	Paul Carrack - Live in Concert (B&B)	£99
Sat 25 Feb	Cirque Du Soleil - Spectacular!	£139
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Sat 4 Feb	Liverpool & Hobbycraft - Live	£69
Sat 25 Feb	Leeds and York Jorvik Viking Festival	£79
Sat 25 Feb	London Spectacular & The Classic Car Show	£119
Sat 18 Mar	Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival & The Lakes	£79
Sat 25 Mar	Manchester Bike Show & Liverpool	£89
Sat 1 Apr	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Sat 15 Apr	London & The Tall Ships Regatta Easter Special	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Cotswolds Wartime 1940's Special	£89
Sat 22 Apr	Skipton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Tue 25 Apr	Gino's Italian Escape - Live!	£99
Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show (B&B)	£99
Sat 13 May	Abingdon Airshow & Historic Bath	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 10 Jun	Ideal Home Show & Liverpool	£79
Sat 24 Jun	Harlow Carr Flower Show	£99

Torquay Double Bill Tribute — 3 DAYS

Fri 24 February	£99	ELTON JOHN/ROD STEWART
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Sat 18 Feb	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 18 Feb	Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 25 Mar	Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Thu 6 Apr	Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 15 Apr	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 29 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 20 May	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£89
Sat 27 May	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 17 Jun	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 24 Jun	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99

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CHOICE

Jennifer Hudson

The Voice UK (ITV, 8pm)
The competition forges ahead as the third round of blind auditions arrives. Coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale have already started to fill spaces on their teams, and with their initial acts now decided, chances are that the coaches will now start to clash over claiming the most exceptional singers to fill their rosters. When this happens, the competition turns on its head, with the coaches now competing against each other to explain why they would be the perfect mentor for the budding music stars. Emma Willis is on hosting duties, and goes backstage with the contestants' families.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The Masters. The opening semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Who Dares Wins.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. TV experts Kieran Long, Piers Taylor, Martin Roberts, Amanda Lamb, Vicki Butler-Henderson, Tiff Needell, John Hammond and Laura Tobin compete in the unorthodox quiz show.

7.00 Let It Shine. The nationwide talent hunt continues, as Mel Giedroyc and Graham Norton host a third round of auditions in Manchester. More hopeful stars take part in solo auditions in front of judges Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and Amber Riley, who are each afforded a/ chance to rate each act out of five stars. As ever, the boys taking to the stage must achieve 15 stars or more to remain in the running to claim a place in Let It Shine's five-strong headline act.

8.25 Casualty. Iain faces an unexpected reunion with his estranged younger sister Gem, a young offender whose supervisor is admitted to the ED after she is struck over the head with a wok.

9.15 Taboo. James Delaney finds himself alone with the mysterious Dr Dumbarton, and ends up discovering he has an unlikely ally. However, with enemies lurking in every corner of London society, James realises Dumbarton's friendship will be but the first in a series of perilous affiliations he will need to make if he is to complete his mission – or avoid meeting an untimely fate. As he works to prevent further attempts on his life, James realises the only way to slip the gaze of his enemies is to give them a more pliable target to destroy in his place. Drama, starring Tom Hardy.

10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights.

11.55 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks ahead to the Conference Championship games.

12.25 Film: Paycheck. (2003) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: Mary of Scotland. (1936) John Ford's historical drama chronicling the turbulent reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her power struggle with Queen Elizabeth I. Katharine Hepburn stars. **8.30 Film:** I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) A woman sets out to marry for money but falls for a dashing but penniless naval officer instead. Powell and Pressburger's romantic drama, starring Wendy Hiller and Roger Livesey. **10.00** Secret Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **1.00** Debbie Reynolds: Talking Pictures. **1.30 Film:** Bundle of Joy. (1956) Musical comedy, starring Debbie Reynolds as a salesgirl who finds an abandoned baby which everyone assumes is hers. With Eddie Fisher. **3.05** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **4.30** Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the opening semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day six at Alexandra Palace in London. **5.30** Only Connect. (R)

6.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. The mountains and forests of Northern Thailand, an area that is home to a variety of wildlife, leading to unusual partnerships developing between animals and people. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day six at Alexandra Palace in London. Despite being an invitational event, this tournament is considered one of the more prestigious on the snooker calendar, and with the winner set to claim a cheque for £200,000, both of the players in this contest will be eager to progress to tomorrow's final. With commentary and analysis by Steve Davis, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, John Parrott, Dennis Taylor and John Virgo.

10.30 Film: Looper. (2012) A hitman employed to kill people who have been sent back in time finds his latest target is his future self. Sci-fi thriller, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Bruce Willis.

12.20 Snooker: The Masters – Extra. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of the opening semi-final in this year's tournament, played over the best of 11 frames on day six at Alexandra Palace in London. **2.20** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Rebound. (R) **10.25** Guess This House. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** River Monsters. (R) **1.05** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.05** Tipping Point. (R) **3.05** The Chase. (R) **4.05** Dance Dance Dance. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! and Fearless. Harry Hill showcases hilarious white-knuckle hijinks from the show's archive, all of which reveal that danger could lurk in even the most unlikely of places.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK.

8.00 The Voice UK. Emma Willis presents the third round of blind auditions, with coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale aiming to bolster their teams further.

9.30 Through the Keyhole. Marvin Humes, Kate Garraway and Jimmy Carr are challenged to discover the identities of three more mystery celebrities, using only clues found in their homes. Hosted by Keith Lemon.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: I Am Legend. (2007) A Manhattan-based scientist tries to find a cure for a viral plague that has turned all other humans into vampire-like creatures. Sci-fi thriller, with Will Smith.

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Grand Designs. (R)

6.15 Channel 4 News.

6.40 Film: Snow White & the Huntsman. (2012) An evil queen learns that her reign will last for ever if she kills a princess, so sends a renowned warrior to find and murder her. However, he comes to realise his mistress's evil ways, and instead trains his intended victim to fight so they can bring the tyrant's rule to an end. Fantasy adventure, with Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron.

9.00 Film: The Other Woman. (2014) Premiere. A woman is devastated to learn her boyfriend is actually married, but when she meets his wife, they quickly become friends. When they discover he has a third secret lover, they decide to join forces and teach him a lesson. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Kate Upton and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.

11.10 Film: The Watch. (2012) A supermarket manager forms a neighbourhood watch group to patrol his community, but stumbles on an alien invasion. Sci-fi comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn.

1.00 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Esther still cannot remember anything from the shooting, and Lisa and Mac are left feeling guilty about having sex in the cellar while Nathan was being attacked. **3.10** The Secret Life of 6 Year Olds. The documentary moves on to a new, older group. (R) **4.00** Shipping Wars UK. Shahbaz runs into trouble in France when his van makes a strange noise. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Transforming a living room, hall and bedroom. (R) **4.55** Location, Location, Location. An update on a property hunt in Aberdeen. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.00** Big Bash Cricket. **11.35 Film:** Escape to Victory. (1981) **1.50** Police Interceptors: Takedown. (R) **2.20** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **3.20** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.15** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **5.15** The Yorkshire Vet. (R)

6.15 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team uncovers an alliance between al-Qaeda and a Mexican drug cartel when a shoot-out at a pawn shop is investigated.

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Hetty enlists the help of a former colleague when an ex-Navy intelligence officer is murdered, but things go awry when her old friend threatens to kill her. The team races to save Hetty and expose her one-time workmate as having lied to the victim in order to make money from a seemingly charitable venture.

8.00 NCIS. A US Marine is found murdered in Quantico, mere hours after calling Gibbs to discuss a possible case. In response, Bishop and McGee go undercover as a married couple to run surveillance on a lieutenant and his wife, who may be connected to the death. Starring Mark Harmon and Michael Weatherly.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Queens Park Rangers v Fulham at Loftus Road, Derby County v Reading at Pride Park, and Barnsley v Leeds United at Oakwell.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Southend United v Bolton Wanderers, and Blackpool v Yeovil Town.

10.30 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

11.35 Lip Sync Battle UK: Katie Price vs Ben Fogle. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present as reality star and author Katie Price and presenter and adventurer Ben Fogle go head to head lip-synching to hit songs. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Patagonia with Huw Edwards **8.00** Treasures of the Indus **9.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **10.00** The Young Montalbanu **11.40** Top of the Pops **12.55** Imagine – Sir Roderick Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **2.20** Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park **3.20** Sounds of the 70s **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.15 Ninja Warrior UK **12.20 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **1.20** FYI Daily **1.25 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **2.10 Film:** Space Jam (1996) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15 Film:** Space Jam (1996) **3.55 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **11.20** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.45** Dads **2.10** Safeword **2.45** Rixton: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.50 Wycliffe **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** Blue Murder **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Pawn Stars **11.30 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **1.20** Barcelona's European Glory **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's race meetings. **4.00 Film:** The Dam Busters (1954) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Dam Busters (1954) **6.35** Pawn Stars **7.00** The Boxing Mavericks **8.00** Big Fight Live. Robbie Davies v Willie Limond. **11.00 Film:** Jaws (1975) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Jaws (1975) **1.40** Hell on Wheels **2.35** World Cup Top Goalscorers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00 Film:** The Addams Family (1991) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Terminator Salvation (2009) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.10** Rude Tube: Rude Zoo **2.10** Rude Tube: Extreme Rides **3.05** Chewing Gum

Film4
11.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **1.00** Flight of the Navigator (1986) **2.45** The Lost World (1960) **4.40** One Fine Day (1996) **6.50** The Time Traveler's Wife (2009) **9.00** Lone Survivor (2013)

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CHOICE

Claire Danes

Homeland (Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. The espionage drama returns, picking up events several months after the climax of season five, which saw a terrorist attack in Berlin being thwarted, and follows the characters through the handover process following a presidential election. Carrie returns to the US with Franny to work with a foundation that provides aid to the Muslim community. Dar and Saul brief the newly elected President as the process of transferring power gets underway, while Quinn struggles to adapt to his new circumstances. Claire Danes, Elizabeth Marvel, Rupert Friend and F Murray Abraham star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Lifeline. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Spy in the Wild. (R)

6.00 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. Granville tries to sell a huge wheel of cheese which is long past its sell by date. Leroy gets sick of delivering goods by bicycle and demands his father invest in a van.

8.00 Call the Midwife. New series. The nuns and midwives return home after their trip to South Africa, to find Nonnatus House has come under new management. The formidable Sister Ursula (Harriet Walter) has taken charge and introduced some drastic changes to the way the clinic is run, which Sister Julienne, bound by her vow of obedience, is powerless to oppose. The midwives come to the aid of a victim of domestic violence whose husband is about to be released from prison, and who risks losing everything if she seeks a divorce. Sister Mary Cynthia suffers further anxiety attacks, and Patsy receives distressing news about her father.

9.00 Apple Tree Yard. New series. Thriller based on Louise Doughty's novel about a scientist who has an affair that leads to a violent incident threatening everything she holds dear. With Emily Watson.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Southampton v Leicester City, Arsenal v Burnley and Chelsea v Hull City.

11.40 A Question of Sport. (R)

12.10 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **7.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **8.00** An Island Parish: Anguilla. (R) **8.30** The Edible Garden. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Talking Snooker. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the best-of-19-frames match takes place. **5.15** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights.

6.15 Ski Sunday. Coverage of the men's downhill on the Hahnenhamm in Kitzbuhel, Austria, and the women's downhill in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Plus, an interview with innovative snowboarder Billy Morgan, who continues to push the boundaries in freestyle.

7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where a maximum of 11 frames will be played to decide this year's champion. Last year's showpiece match was a decidedly one-sided affair, with Ronnie O-Sullivan claiming a 10-1 victory over Barry Hawkins to win the competition for a record-equalling sixth time, putting him level with Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.00 QI XL. Johnny Vegas, Ronni Ancona and Jimmy Carr join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "naval navigation" in this extended episode.

11.45 Film: Good. (2008) A literary professor in 1930s Germany finds his work praised by the fast-rising Nazi party, and begins to enjoy the privileges conferred by their acclaim. As his prosperity grows, he becomes increasingly morally compromised, and as the true nature of Nazi ideology becomes clear, he tries to protect his Jewish psychiatrist from the state. Drama, with Viggo Mortensen, Jason Isaacs and Jodie Whittaker.

1.15 Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Peterborough, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R) **2.15** Holby City. Sacha becomes suspicious about Essie and Raf's relationship, and Fletch fights to save his friend Artem's life when the old gambler returns to the Acute Assessment Unit. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.35** The Voice UK. (R) **5.05** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.30 Dance Dance Dance. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host the third heat of the dance contest, which finds the contestants challenged to recreate famous routines by Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson and Fred Astaire. Judges Ashley Banjo. Tina Landon and Timor Steffens rate their efforts and decide who will be leaving the show this week.

8.00 Endeavour. Morse is assigned to protect an informant who is undergoing emergency surgery. The case brings back unpleasant memories for the detective, while his colleagues are thrown into disarray when Bright is also rushed to hospital. Morse becomes fixated with a series of mysterious deaths that have occurred on the ward, and tries to find the scientific explanation behind stories of a curse.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.15 The Cube. Contestants try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks, hoping to win a jackpot of £250,000. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show: DNA Bombshells. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30 Film:** Tooth Fairy. (2010) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.50 Film:** The Day After Tomorrow. (2004) A climatologist races across America to rescue his son as freak weather conditions cause devastation around the world. Disaster thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid. Edited for language and violence.

8.00 Walking the Americas. Levison Wood travels along a string of volcanoes in Nicaragua as he makes his way to Costa Rica, and climbs to the top of an active volcano referred to as the Mouth of Hell. He also meets fishermen who live on an island in Central America's largest lake, visits a camp for migrants trying to reach the US, and attempts to climb the highest mountain on his route.

9.00 Homeland. New series. Carrie returns to the US with Franny to work as an advocate for Muslim Americans, while Dar and Saul brief President-elect Keane. Claire Danes stars.

10.05 Film: Trainspotting. (1996) A heroin addict makes a series of attempts to kick the habit, but the grind of everyday life and a circle of similarly self-destructive friends keep dragging him back to his old ways. Following a near-fatal overdose, he comes to the realisation that the only way to put his life in order is to rid himself of his friends – which is easier said than done. Danny Boyle's drama based on Irvine Welsh's novel, starring Ewan McGregor, Robert Carlyle and Ewen Bremner.

11.55 The 90s: Ten Years That Changed the World. Kathy Burke narrates this look back at the 1990s revolution in British music, fashion, film, sport, art and media, as told by the people who made it happen. (R)

1.20 How to Lose Weight Well. (R) **2.15** Millionaires' Mansions: Designing Britain's Most Exclusive Homes. (R) **3.10** The Autistic Gardener. (R) **4.05** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Seaside Antics. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.55** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.20** Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.20 Film:** Kangaroo Jack. (2003) Comedy, starring Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. **3.00 Film:** George of the Jungle. (1997) **4.45 Film:** Herbie: Fully Loaded. (2005)

6.30 Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud.

7.30 The Adele Story. Documentary charting the remarkable career trajectory of Adele Adkins, the pop and soul singer who rose from humble beginnings in Tottenham to become one of the biggest stars of the modern music industry. Now popular enough to warrant going by her forename only, Adele's interest in music was encouraged by her mother from an early age. Winning a place at the Brit School in Croydon, Adele first shot into the public eye when her friend uploaded a demo to MySpace in 2006, and by the time she graduated, the singer had already secured a record deal. What followed were three hugely successful albums, 19, 21 and 25, each of which surpassed the last in terms of critical acclaim and sales figures. Adele also scored an Oscar in 2013 for her song Skyfall, which featured as the theme of the James Bond film of the same name. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.

11.05 Film: Just Go with It. (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Universal Soldier. (1992) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **8.00** Sword, Musket & Machine Gun: Britain's Armed History **9.00** Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **10.00** Hidden Killers of the Post-War Home **11.00** Horizon: What's Wrong with Our Weather? **12.00** Play It Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **1.00** Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand **2.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.00** Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **4.00** Close

ITV2

3.00 Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.55 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.50 Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.35 Film:** Wimbledon (2004) **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40 Film:** Wimbledon (2004) **12.40** A Touch of Frost **2.20** Wycliffe **3.15** May the Best House Win

ITV4

5.10 Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **6.50** Mr Bean **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **10.00 Film:** The Bank Job (2008) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** The Bank Job (2008) **12.15 Film:** Road (2014) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20 Film:** Road (2014) **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.35 The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Colombiana (2011) **11.05** Tattoo Fixers **12.10** Virtually Famous **1.05** Gogglebox **1.50** The Goldbergs **2.40** Rude Tube

Film4

1.00 Short Circuit (1986) **3.05** The House of Magic (2013) **4.45** Time Bandits (1981) **7.00** The Way Way Back (2013) **9.00** The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014) **11.05** Enemy at the Gates (2001)

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Too Close To Kill, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two best friends go their separate ways for the first time when one gets into the most revered sorority on campus, but matters soon take a fatal turn when one of them is murdered. Thriller, starring Greer Grammer, Chloe Babcook and Steve Bacic. (2016)

TUESDAY
Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)

Insidious, Friday, Channel 4, 12.50am

WEDNESDAY
The Others, Channel 4, 1.30am
A woman awaits the return of her husband from the Second World War while struggling to care for her son and daughter. Both children suffer a violent reaction when exposed to daylight, forcing her to keep much of their isolated home on the island of Jersey shrouded in gloom. When the pair claim to see strangers in the house, their terrified mother begins to suspect that the souls of the dead are stalking the halls. Period supernatural thriller, starring Nicole Kidman. (2001)

THURSDAY
Badge of Betrayal, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman discovers her supposedly dead son is still alive, his demise having been faked by her ex-husband as part of an elaborate plot to destroy her life. However, finding the evidence to prove her story turns out to be a difficult challenge. Thriller, starring Julie Benz and Matthew Kevin Anderson. (2014)

FRIDAY
Insidious, Channel 4, 12.50am
A family experience strange events in their house and become convinced it is haunted. However, after moving on, they find the dark forces have followed them and when their son mysteriously falls into a coma, they must find a way to get rid of the paranormal entities tormenting them. Horror, starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. (2010)

The stars are out to shine in the capital

It's January, the start of a new year, a time, perhaps, to look back at what happened during the previous 12 months.

That's certainly the case in the showbusiness world.

During the next few weeks, we'll be inundated with awards ceremonies. The Golden Globes have already taken place, Bafta's film event appears on February 12, with the Oscars happen a fortnight later.

But our focus, for now, will be on the National Television Awards (or NTAs, for short). They're a little bit special because they're voted for by the public, ie the audience sat at home watching programmes for pleasure, rather than stuffy critics who are paid for their opinions.

That fact also makes them mean more to the winners too – after all, if the fans have voted for them, then they must be doing something right.

The past 12 months have certainly been very special TV-wise, with lots of highlights to choose from – long gone are the days when viewers were left bemoaning that there was nothing on the box tonight!

The Great British Bake Off proved to be hugely popular, and viewers were fixed to their screens as Candice Brown was crowned the winner. But it was a bittersweet moment as it was revealed that the 2016 run would be the last to appear on the BBC – controversially, it will make its debut on Channel 4 this year, without presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, and judge Mary Berry, although Paul Hollywood had opted to stick with the show.

Interestingly, the programme (Best Challenge Show), Mel and Sue (TV Presenter), and Mary (TV Judge) are all up for NTAs, but Paul is not…

While Mary faces fierce competition from fellow veteran Len Goodman, who has retired from Strictly Come Dancing, Mel and Sue must beat the mighty Ant and Dec if they're to triumph – and that's no mean feat.

One of the most hotly contested categories will be Drama Performance, where Cillian Murphy (Peaky Blinders), Jenna Colman (Victoria), Sarah Lancashire (Happy Valley) and recent Golden Globe winner Tom Hiddleston (The Night Manager) will vie for the title.

All of their series are also in the running for awards, in either the Drama or Period Drama sections.

Other big names and shows set to feature on the night are Cold Feet, Casualty, Coronation Street, David Walliams, Simon Cowell and Game of Thrones.

Dermot O'Leary will host the event live from London's O2 arena, while Queen of the Jungle Scarlett Moffatt takes charge of the ceremony's social media feeds, delivering all the latest backstage gossip in the process.

"I've never been to an awards ceremony before," says Scarlett. "I can't believe the first one I'm attending is as part of the actual NTA team working alongside Dermot, the master of live TV; it's going to be such an amazing experience.

"To top it off, my Dad gets to be my plus one and walk me down my first ever red carpet. What more can a girl ask for?"

The National Television Awards 2017, Wednesday, ITV, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Winterwatch 2017
BBC2, 8pm
New series. Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Martin Hughes-Games return to RSPB Arne in Dorset as they present from their base on Poole Harbour, which is officially the most biodiverse region in the UK, with more species of animals and plants within 10 miles of Wareham than anywhere else in the country. Gillian Burke examines military pillboxes in Studland to explore the lives of hibernating butterflies in winter, while Martin tries to understand the harbour's appeal for waders, particularly avocets, and has an incredible revelation.

TUESDAY
Brainwashing Stacey
BBC1, 10.45pm
Stacey Dooley travels to southern California to meet Jeff White, an anti-abortion campaigner who runs a group entitled Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust. He's been arrested more than 100 times for leading public protests against pregnancy terminations, and runs so-called Survivors Pro-Life Training Camps, in which children from all over America are invited to take part in summer camps which, according to its website, aims to ëeducate and equip young activitists who are willing to be used by God to defend those unjustly sentenced to death'. Dooley joins some of the youngsters on field trips which seem to involve disrupting what goes on at abortion clinics, and hears why they feel that White's message is one that should be heard and heeded.

WEDNESDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 8pm
As the 'last of the McKellen's', the award-winning actor and civil rights champion Sir Ian McKellen admits to a degree of melancholy as delves into his family history, but the results pay off greatly. On his journey back through his family history, he discovers one of his ancestors was a Victorian political activist, and another relative was also linked to the theatre. Finally, Ian learns that previous generations of his family have a surprising link to an ancient druidical landmark in the Lake District.

Hospital
BBC2, 9pm
The spotlight moves to the neurological ward, where crane driver Phil is one of the most urgent cases. After collapsing at work he is becoming increasingly paralysed, and Kevin O'Neill, one of the country's leading brain surgeons, wants to remove the fast-growing brain tumour causing Phil's condition. It's a life-threatening operation, and time is of the essence – but securing theatre time in a hospital at bursting point proves to be far from simple. But waiting times could be a thing of the past if revolutionary new treatments that don't involve invasive brain surgery prove to be successful. Consultant neurologist Dr Peter Bain is at the forefront of this work, and talks viewers through how using MRI-focussed ultrasound waves could replace knives and drills.

Brainwashing Stacey, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Spy in the Wild
BBC1, 8pm
The undercover cameras reveal how animals rely upon each other for a range of activities. Arctic wolves group together to survive in one of the harshest landscapes on earth, a band of hungry mongoose groom warthogs for tasty morsels – before turning their attention to Spy Warthog – and fish help clean hippos' bodies, as well as providing a unique dental service. Meanwhile, crocodiles and dikkop birds take part in a mutual neighbourhood watch against hungry prowling monitor lizards, and Spy Rattlesnake captures how prairie dogs and burrowing owls use their language skills to tell the rest of their community of approaching danger.

FRIDAY
Eurovision: You Decide
BBC2, 7.30pm
It's now been 20 years since the UK won the Eurovision Song Contest – our last victors were Katrina and the Waves back in 1997 with Love Shine a Light. So that makes it all the more important that we find the right song to represent us this year, and the BBC are turning to the public to help with the search. Hosted by self-confessed Eurovision fan Mel Giedroyc from the Hammersmith Apollo, this live shows sees six short-listed acts taking to the stage in the hopes of impressing the viewers and a jury of music professionals. The panel will offer feedback on the songs – and some suggestions as to how they might be staged – before their scores are combined with the public vote to determine who will be flying the flag for the UK in Ukraine this year.

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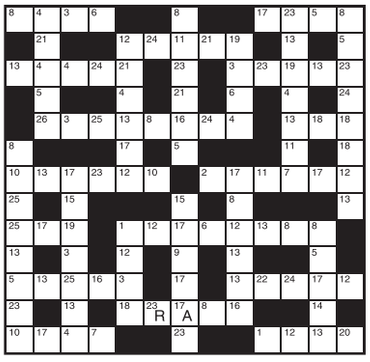
BRAIN GYM No.412

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



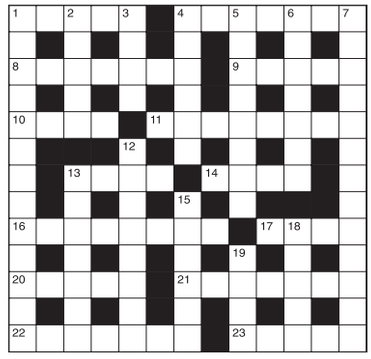
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 A
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 R
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	X	H	C	Q	O	P	I	F	J	V	W	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	E	D	Z	R	A	B	G	K	L	N	T	U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Everybody out of bed: this is the end! (3,2)
4. Cut nail for madman (7)
8. Take the lead in behaviour (7)
9. He has a suit, of course (5)
10. The majority of doctors get treatment first (4)
11. Charm by getting on stage? (8)
13. Plunge into a drinking-den (4)
14. At this point in the rehearsal (4)
16. Current minister is absolutely right (8)
17. Frank has nothing to writer (4)
20. I break up game involving idol (5)
21. Compunction about code (7)
22. Try a leg in a big way (7)
23. Entertain, as doctors do (5)

Down

1. Obliging with lodgings, perhaps (13)
2. Rows involve falsehoods about Norman, initially (5)
3. Register pique when dupes get dues this way (4)
4. The French temporary home is hidden (6)
5. Stagger from all quarters to see topical film (4-4)
6. Counter beat (7)
7. Complementary journalist (13)
12. Get too many degrees for comfort? (8)
13. Aver led race (7)
15. Violent tale about a thousand (6)
18. Clearing out of undesirables from group urgently needed (5)
19. Give out time is up (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Force back (5)
4. Quell (7)
8. Scheme (7)
9. Subject (5)
10. Alleviate (4)
11. Reduce (8)
13. Act (4)
14. Profit (4)
16. Harshness (8)
17. Labyrinth (4)
20. Lighter (5)
21. Tedious (7)
22. Factor (7)
23. Urge (5)

Down

1. Blameworthy (13)
2. Devout (5)
3. Dregs (4)
4. Preferably (6)
5. Fatherly (8)
6. Interpret (7)
7. Extreme reticence (13)
12. Respite (8)
13. Separate (7)
15. Rigorous (6)
18. Without help (5)
19. Neglect (4)

Sudoku

1	6						4	
	9		6		5			1
		5			8			7
	2	7					5	
5			4		2			9
	4		7			8		2
4			8			7		
6		1			3		2	
	7		5				3	8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	9	2	6	8	1	4	3
4	2	6	9	3	1	5	7	8
8	3	1	4	5	7	9	6	2
6	4	5	1	7	3	2	8	9
9	8	7	5	2	6	4	3	1
3	1	2	8	9	4	7	5	6
7	5	3	6	1	2	8	9	4
2	6	8	7	4	9	3	1	5
1	9	4	3	8	5	6	2	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Spaghetti; 8 Ties; 9 Sovereign; 10 Roller; 11 Steed; 14 Lisle; 15 Note; 16 Remit; 18 Neil; 20 Rents; 21 Cites; 24 Marian; 25 Unmarried; 26 Shun; 27 Plaything. Down: 1 Startling; 2 Realistic; 4 Poor; 5 Guest; 6 Eleven; 7 Tags; 9 Sewer; 11 Samos; 12 Downright; 13 Reasoning; 17 Tread; 19 Litany; 22 Earth; 23 Anil; 24 Mean. QUICK - Across: 3 Pseudonym; 8 Item; 9 Destitute; 10 Lessen; 11 Tenet; 14 Nurse; 15 True; 16 Rumba; 18 Sold; 20 Fount; 21 Yield; 24 Propel; 25 Reconcile; 26 Dawn; 27 Wrangling. Down: 1 Violinist; 2 Leisurely; 4 Seen; 5 Untie; 6 Outset; 7 Yeti; 9 Defer; 11 Timid; 12 Triumphal; 13 Pestilent; 17 Afire; 19 Disown; 22 Local; 23 Gear; 24 Plan.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What nationality was the painter Paul Klee?
2. In which war were the Battles of Bull Run fought?
3. Who won the 1994 Booker Prize?
4. With which film did Marlene Dietrich win world fame?
5. Whose wife was Helen of Troy?
6. Of which Canadian province is Winnipeg the capital?
7. In snooker, how many points is the brown ball worth?
8. Which element has the symbol Na?
9. What is a pond-skater?
10. Which calendar includes the months Messidor and Thermidor?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Mallord; 2 Quango; 3 Jack Lemmon; 4 Trefoil; 5 Edward II; 6 1971; 7 Land of Nod; 8 Canada; 9 Dundee; 10 Orchids.

Niner: SPHERICAL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

152785 gives a golf club,
34669 gives a second golf club,
297859833 gives an American golf course.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Golden globes – porcini mushroom arancini with lovage pesto

Warm and welcoming interior

Sound as a bell – The Bell in Belbroughton

As good as gold – melting golden chocolate bomb

Fantastic food sound as a Bell

Lisa Williams tucks in

MONDAY. Quite possibly the worst day of the week. Back to work when you've just enjoyed a lovely, lazy weekend.

A harsh dose of reality after two days bliss. But on a cheeky day off, while the rest of the country began their nine-to-five, it was nice to know a leisurely lunch was imminent.

It seemed like a good idea to revisit a pub that was a four-star find 18 months ago and had not long reopened after a revamp.

It was a good decision and standards remain high, another four stars, and there would've been an extra half had there not been a salmon and spinach debacle – to be revealed in due course.

So on a rainy Monday we ventured to the warm and welcoming pub. Gone were the countrified and formal furnishings replaced with a fancy and modern eclectic mix of looks. Bright velvet seats were coupled with animal prints and plain bold colours. Metal lantern lights and huge light shades hung above our heads.

Our waitress, Amy, was bright and bubbly and very helpful. The menu has a great deal of choice which should satisfy the fussiest of eaters. It also has a fair few imaginative dishes.

Stand-out options include something that's all the rage at the moment – a Wagyu burger; there's also a fisherman's platter starter including Sloe gin smoked salmon with salmon caviar and crayfish cocktail in bloody Mary ketchup.

And for veggies there's a roasted winter vegetable tart stuffed with butternut squash, beetroot and Cropwell Bishop custard with a Stilton and walnut crumb; and also a buttermilk Southern Fried chicken stuffed with 'nduja sausage, with sweet potato fries, apple salad and preserved lemon aioli.

There are plenty of other simpler options too, sandwiches if you fancy a lighter bite, pizzas, pasta, salads and loads of meat and fish dishes.

We decided to go all out and have three courses. My other half went for the deep-fried Somerset Brie in panko breadcrumbs with apricot and cumin chutney and I chose the Porcini Mushroom Arancini with lovage pesto.

My three golden orbs of arancini were delightful. The perfect crunch gave way to a heady mix of earthy mushrooms, salty and sticky mozzarella and al dente rice.

The Somerset Brie was a gooey splendour with stretchy strings of cheese. For mains he went for hearty man food, a steak, ale and Portobello mushroom pie with mashed potato, heritage carrots and seasonal greens.

Delicious

For me a fish dish from the specials menu, oven-baked salmon on a bed of tomato and garlic linguine with wilted spinach. A lovely shortcrust pastry pie appeared with a good helping of mashed potato and veg.

My salmon looked delicious with a gorgeously crispy skin nut immediately I noticed the absence of the wilted spinach. I cut into the salmon and began to eat. There was a bone and then another. The fish was slightly slimy and when I poked in my fork further I could see it wasn't cooked.

Amy apologised profusely and with no fuss she took away both meals. After a little wait they were returned to us. My salmon was back with spinach and cooked perfectly. The flavour of the tomato and the garlic in the linguine, which was cooked as pasta should be, was subtle but fresh and worked well with the fish.

The way the situation was handled and the quality of the fresh meals more than made up for the initial disappointment.

The pie was a success too, with the pastry getting top marks.

Despite feeling quite full we weren't leaving without sampling dessert. I wanted something lighter as I didn't want to end up feeling stuffed so went for the '200 calories or less' option.

This was strawberries and frozen natural yoghurt with honey ripple and rhubarb and rose flavour curd. It sounded refreshing and also the curd a little intriguing.

He went for something chocolatey, the melting golden chocolate bomb with caramel ice cream, chocolate popping candy and hot Devon cream toffee sauce.

We left with great big grins on our faces, full bellies and made a promise to return as soon as we possibly could!

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Good-sized home in super loacation

Enviably located on the exclusive Woodthorne development, 9 Henry Fowler Drive, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton was built by David Wilson Homes.

In one of the city's most favoured neighbourhoods, this exceptionally attractive detached residence has superbly proportioned accommodation which makes optimum use of space and is lavishly appointed. Now remodelled, it is for sale through Bartlams at £549,950.

It has a cloakroom off the entrance hall, two interlinking reception rooms plus a versatile family/play/cinema room, a 20ft breakfast kitchen with a splendid range of fittings and appliances and also an adjoining laundry. The first floor layout features a huge master bedroom suite including extensive fitted wardrobes and a luxurious bathroom together with three further double bedrooms and a family bathroom. Gas-fired central heating and double glazed windows ensure an appropriate balance of comfort and economy complemented by solar panels. Externally the property features block-paved forecourt parking and neatly landscaped gardens with a south-easterly aspect to the rear.

In more detail the entrance hall has a storage cupboard and the cloakroom has a white suite. The lounge has a bay window to the front and a wall-mounted "living flame" gas fire. The dining room has a French window opening onto the rear garden. With underfloor heating, the cinema/playroom has underfloor heating, wall mounted 3D projector and a sound system.

The breakfast kitchen includes a family sitting/dining area with French windows opening onto rear garden, open plan to the kitchen area. This features a superb range of white panelled contemporary-style fittings comprising floor-based cupboards with granite work surfaces, wall mounted-cupboards, a tall larder cupboard, a breakfast bar, integrated AEG oven and six-ring hob with extractor canopy, a built-in refrigerator, freezer and automatic dishwasher. The utility/laundry has coordinating white panelled cupboards and work surfaces and a steel sink, plumbing for a washing machine and a door to the cinema/playroom.

Upstairs, off the galleried landing, bedroom one has a bay window, two extensive ranges of fitted wardrobes and an en-suite bathroom with a white contemporary bathroom, and there are three further bedrooms and a contemporary bathroom.

TETTENHALL £549,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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EMAIL: tettenhallsales@bartlams.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

By David Wilson Homes
Top area
Detached
Family/play/cinema room
20ft breakfast kitchen

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Wolverhampton

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COVEN, TURNPIKE WAY — £310,000

"AN IMPRESSIVELY PROPORTIONED EXECUTIVE FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION!" Comprising - entrance hall, cloak room, lounge, dining room, family room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, en suite, family bathroom, garage, off road parking and rear garden. EPC rating C

PERTON, CARISBROOKE ROAD — £275,000

"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED MODERN DETACHED HOME SITUATED IN A WONDERFUL CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION" Comprising lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, ground floor wc, four/five bedrooms (see agents note), bathroom, master en-suite, beautiful front & rear gardens with ample off road parking & garden to side. EPC rating TBC

CALF HEATH, QUEENS ROAD — £240,000

"A HIGHLY DECEPTIVE CHAIN FREE EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOME SITUATED CLOSE TO THE POPULAR CALF HEATH MARINA OFFERING WONDERFUL RURAL LIVING" Comprising wc, lounge, open plan fitted breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, garage, three/four bedrooms (see agents note), luxury bathroom & en-suite. EPC rating E

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WEST PARK, PARK AVENUE — £250,000

"A GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED FIVE BEDROOM EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME THAT COMES TO THE MARKET WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN!" Comprising - entrance porch, hall, cloak room, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, five bedrooms, family bathroom, separate wc, off road parking, garage and rear garden. EPC rating D

NEWTOWN, STAFFORD ROAD — £365,000

"A DECADENTLY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PRIVATE RESIDENCE SET IN THE SOUGHT AFTER VILLAGE OF GREAT WYRLEY WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS TO THE REAR" EPC rating D

NEWBRIDGE, GIBBONS GROVE — £210,000

"THIS BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED DETACHED BUNGALOW COMES TO THE MARKET WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN AND HAS BEEN FULLY REFURBISHED TO SHOW HOME STANDARD!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge, open plan kitchen diner living area, three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage and rear garden. EPC rating E

FORDHOUSES, CRICKET MEADOW — £195,000

"THIS WELL PRESENTED & EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW OFFERING DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS LIVING ACCOMMODATION IS SITUATED WITHIN A CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION" Comprising hall, open plan lounge dining area, refitted kitchen, three bedroom, en-suite, bathroom, off road parking & rear garden. EPC rating D

OXLEY, CROFT GARDENS — £180,000

"BRAND NEW THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME THAT BOASTS NO UPWARD CHAIN!" Comprising - entrance hall, cloak room, lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, en suite, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking. EPC rating B

WEDNESFIELD, SPRINGHILL ROAD — £169,995

"AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A MODERN DETACHED BUNGALOW SITUATED ON A PRIVATE DRIVE CLOSE TO THE POPULAR LINTHOUSE LANE" Comprising lounge diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, fitted bathroom, off road parking to front & secure parking to side leading to a detached garage. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC rating C

COSELEY, AVENUE ROAD — From £145,000

"A BEAUTIFUL & BRAND NEW SEMI DETACHED HOME READY & AVAILABLE NOW - CONTACT 01902 710170" Comprising lounge, fantastic open plan kitchen diner, ground floor wc, three bedrooms, luxury family bathroom, pleasant front & rear gardens with ample off road parking to side. LABC 10 year warranty. EPC rating TBC.

UNDERHILL, WATERHEAD DRIVE — £119,995

"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & HIGHLY DECEPTIVE END TERRACE PROPERTY WITH FARMLAND VIEWS TO REAR" This home comprises of an open plan lounge diner with a feature adjoining conservatory, fitted kitchen, outbuildings with storage/ utility opportunity areas, two double bedrooms & luxury fitted bathroom. EPC rating E

WEDNESFIELD, HYLSTONE CRESCENT — £140,000

"A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE AN EXTENDED PROPERTY SITUATED ON A END PLOT OFFERING FOURTH BEDROOM CONVERSION OPPORTUNITIES" Comprising open plan lounge diner, kitchen, utility/office, gf shower room, wc, inner hallway, three double bedroom, bathroom, front & rear gardens & off road parking. EPC rating C

FORDHOUSES, MARSH LANE — £135,000

"AN INTERNAL VIEWING IS HIGHLY ADVISED TO FULLY APPRECIATE THIS DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS SEMI DETACHED HOME SITUATED WITHIN A POPULAR LOCATION!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge, dining/living area, kitchen, rear porch, cloak room, utility space, four bedrooms, wet room, front and rear gardens. EPC rating D

FEATHERSTONE, PENDERELL CLOSE — £129,995

"A MODERN SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY SITUATED IN A POPULAR CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION" Comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, fitted bathroom, front and rear gardens with off road parking to side. VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC rating F

COSELEY, PEMBERTON ROAD — £110,000

"A WONDERFULLY PRESENTED & SHOWHOME STYLED TRADITIONAL TERRACED HOME WHICH REQUIRES VIEWING TO APPRECIATE" Comprising lounge, dining room/ sitting room, CELLAR, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, fitted bathroom, pleasant good size rear garden. EPC rating D

BUSHBURY, EMERSON ROAD — £100,000

"A CHAIN FREE CORNER PLOT SEMI DETACHED HOME READY & AVAILABLE NOW!" This pleasant home as a generous lounge with a separate dining kitchen, two double bedrooms, generous bathroom, front, side & rear gardens with 21ft garage to side with adjoining storage area to rear (office/utility potential). EPC rating D

PENN FIELDS, CHEQUERFIELD DRIVE — £89,995

"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT SITUATED IN A POPULAR CUL DE SAC LOCATION WITH LOCAL AMENITIES!" Comprising - generous lounge diner, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, fitted bathroom, communal gardens and garage to rear. AVAILABLE WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN, READY NOW! EPC rating D

WOLVERHAMPTON, PENN ROAD — £75,000

"A CHAIN FREE GROUND FLOOR TRADITIONAL APARTMENT SITUATED CLOSE TO WOLVERHAMPTON CITY CENTRE!" Comprising - lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, master bedroom, communal gardens and parking to rear. EPC rating E

OFF BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD — £75,000

"A DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS ONE BEDROOM SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT SITUATED ON AN ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT & OFFERED WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN" Comprising communal entrance hall, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, secure gated allocated parking, visitor parking & communal gardens. EPC rating B

CONNELLS... SETTING THE PACE FOR 80 YEARS

WINNERS

Connells

ESTATE AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Local estate agency Connells is delighted to announce it has won an award at the prestigious **Estate Agency of the Year Awards**, held in association with The Sunday Times and The Times. At a gala ceremony at the Hilton London Metropole Hotel on Friday 2nd December, Connells picked up **Gold** in the National Estate Agency of the Year category as part of parent company Connells Group. **The winners were presented with their award by celebrated film and TV actor and Spandau Ballet bassist Martin Kemp, with renowned journalist, author and newsreader Penny Smith acting as compere.**

The award judges' report said that Connells Group is "respected in the industry.... and a great all-round company operating to a successful formula but always with one eye on innovation". The Group's commitment to its people was also highlighted with the judges commenting that "the board empowers their team.... offering a defined career path and rewards to retain the best people - they enjoy unrivalled retention." Excellence for customers was also congratulated with mystery shopping results deemed "excellent" and the "level of service offered great...aided by the contact centre and software". The panel was also "impressed with the number of new branches opening on the high street."

"We are thrilled to have won this award and to be recognised as part of the top national estate agency group in the UK," says David Plumtree, Connells Group Estate Agency Chief Executive. "This is a fantastic achievement and testimony to both the high quality services we provide and our success at helping customers with their property needs. I am very proud of everyone in the business for their contribution towards this terrific accolade."

Award winners were decided following a rigorous and thorough judging process by a panel of industry experts who assessed initial entry submissions before conducting an extensive review of the entrants, which included telephone interviews and mystery shopping exercises. The whole of the judging process was overseen by The Property Ombudsman, Katrina Sporle, as Chairperson of Judges, alongside David Mackie, President of the NAEA who acted as Arbiter. Now in its thirteenth year as a dedicated competition, these awards have become widely recognised as the most prestigious and difficult to win.

This award follows Connells Group's success at the Lettings Agency of the Year Awards, held in association with The Sunday Times and The Times in June, picking up Gold in the National Lettings Agency of the Year category.

These awards put the icing on the cake for Connells Wolverhampton who's Local Director, Lee Cooke also wins the UK's top selling Connells Branch for the 8th consecutive year.

Best National Estate Agency 2016 (Judges report)

The panel believes Connells Group to be an exemplary business. The mystery shopping results were excellent, which in itself is very good considering the size of the company. The level of service offered is great and is aided by the contact centre and software. The mantra at Connells is 'reaching new heights' and the board empowers their team to meet this via a number of methods from iPads to marketing campaigns. There is a defined career path and rewards to retain the best people – they enjoy unrivalled retention. Everyone is expected to work hard – it's a demanding company but the rewards are there for the taking. They offer 150 apprenticeships and have also signed up to the 'Good Recruitment' initiative. It is respected in the industry and the panel was impressed with the number of new branches opening on the high street. Connells Group is a great all-round company operating to a successful formula but always with one eye on innovation

GOLD NATIONAL ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2016 THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

Best National Lettings Agency 2016 (Judges report)

The past three years has seen Connells Group go through a huge expansion programme - branch numbers have increased by over 200%. The lettings offering is provided by a dedicated team and highly trained specialist lettings staff in all branches who can advise on all aspects of lettings from tenant find to full management. By working with the sales contacts in the branches, the lettings team can identify the most suitable properties for investors and advise accordingly. They hold specific landlord events on a number of relevant topics from legislative updates and compliance to investment and portfolio advice. Landlords can also readily access up-to-date advice on the above through the dedicated legislation hotline. Employees are shown a clear career path and can feel confident that they can progress from junior negotiator to board member - there is real evidence of investment in talent. Connells have been able to achieve such huge growth due to the quality staff it has in place; they have come a long way and should be very proud of their contribution to its success.

GOLD NATIONAL LETTINGS AGENCY of the YEAR 2016 THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

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46 MOUNT ROAD, TETTENHALL

JUST 2 PLOTS REMAINING

Three new properties adorn Tettenhall Wood, nestling into the surrounding architecture with unrivalled craftsmanship by Parkes Homes LTD. Internally the impressive accommodation offers six double bedrooms, gallery room, walk-in wardrobe, balcony, four luxury bathrooms, through hall with high ceilings, contemporary open plan live in kitchen, utility, guest WC, and two reception rooms. Externally with a gated entrance there is a garage, ample parking and large mature landscaped gardens. Three unique designs, incentives available.

OFFERS AROUND £795,000

PLAS GWYN, PATTINGHAM ROAD
PERTON RIDGE

A landmark residence on what is traditionally considered to be the most exclusive address within the local area providing extensive accommodation over two storeys in a superb plot with magnificent views to the rear. Porch, hall, four reception rooms, breakfast kitchen, laundry and two bedroom suites to the ground floor. Two bedrooms and house bathroom to the first floor. Dual entrance driveway, triple garage and a rear garden with stunning views. (EPC: F). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £770,000

NURTON HALL FARMHOUSE
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, PATTINGHAM

A beautifully situated detached house providing substantial, well appointed and flexible accommodation with charming views and extensive grounds amounting to almost five acres in total standing in a prominent position in a sought after address. There is permitted development for an extension to provide double and single storey extensions to the rear. Hall, cloakroom, lounge, sitting room, kitchen and breakfast room, dining conservatory, laundry, four bedrooms, two bathrooms and an en-suite shower room. Wide frontage, carriage driveway, garage and a lovely rear garden with extensive terrace, fenced paddock and timber stable block.
(EPC: E). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £625,000

118 WROTTESLEY ROAD WEST
TETTENHALL

A superbly proportioned family home standing in a particularly sought after address with well balanced accommodation providing three good reception rooms to the ground floor together with four good bedrooms and three bath / shower rooms to the first floor, all standing in a large plot with an excellent frontage and a charming garden to the rear. Porch, hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, family room, dining kitchen, two bedroom suites, two further double bedrooms and a house bathroom. Driveway, double garage and a lovely rear garden. (EPC: E). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £549,950

BELLETERRE, CHURCH ROAD
CODSALL

A beautifully modernised and superbly situated family house offering accommodation of the finest calibre standing in a generous plot of almost a third of an acre in a prestigious location with glorious, open views to the rear. Porch, hall, cloaks and shower room, lounge, dining room, study, beautifully appointed dining kitchen, laundry, four bedrooms, three with fitted furniture, ensuite shower and house bathroom. Deep and impressive frontage affording off road parking for several vehicles, detached double garage and a lovely rear garden.
(EPC: C). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £545,000

BAKERS HOUSE
BROMLEY

A Quintessential Grade II listed residence dating back to the late 16th Century having been sympathetically restored by the current owners making this a fantastic family home. Bakers House presents a wealth of characterful and charming living accommodation whilst retaining many historical features. Surrounded by easily maintained, mature cottage gardens, this elevated position boasts glorious panoramic Shropshire views, close to town. Bakers House also includes an orchard, pond and a range of useful outbuildings offering opportunity for further development (STPP). BRIDGNORTH OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £499,999

2 LEA FARM BARNS
HOLYHEAD ROAD, ALBRIGHTON

A superb property forming part of a stylish development of just three unique residences providing fine accommodation with beautiful views in a rural yet accessible setting. The development has been nominated for the Premier Guarantee Excellence Awards 2016. Dining hall, lounge, family room, breakfast kitchen, hall, cloakroom, four good size bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. Driveway, rear garden and lovely front and rear views. ALTERNATIVELY, the property can be rearranged to provide a principal bedroom wing with shower room together with two bedrooms and house bathroom to the first floor.
(EPC: B). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OPEN VIEWING 28TH JANUARY FROM 11AM

OFFERS AROUND £485,000

28 CHURCH HILL
IRONBRIDGE

Standing elevated above the bustling High Street of Ironbridge, 28 Church Hill boasts stunning views over the Gorge and beyond. This attractive residence offers four bedroom accommodation with a number of period features. The property enjoys private parking, a detached two storey coach house, garage and log cabin. The coach house offers scope for an annex or holiday let. (EPC:E). BRIDGNORTH OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £425,000

1 THE COTTAGES, GREAT MOOR ROAD
PATTINGHAM

An attractive, semi-detached cottage with well appointed contemporary accommodation standing behind a sandstone wall in a popular and sought after location with lovely, open views. Porch, hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining / sitting room, breakfast kitchen and utility. Three double bedrooms, en-suite shower room and house bathroom. Driveway, double garage, rear garden and brick built garden building. (EPC: F). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £419,950

3 TEOTTA DRIVE
TETTENHALL

A fine, modern family home forming part of an exclusive development which was created by well known luxury house builders, Banner Homes, to their usual exacting standards and with their usual design flair. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, dining kitchen and family room. To the first floor there is a principal suite, three further bedroom and a house bathroom. Side by side drive, garage and rear garden. (EPC: C). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £375,000

40A OAKLANDS ROAD
PENN

A charming, period detached residence offering generously proportioned accommodation with high ceilings, picture rails and decorative coving over three storeys, standing in an established and convenient location within easy reach of the City Centre. Open porch, entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, sitting room, dining kitchen, four bedrooms, family bathroom and separate wc to the first floor and loft room with ensuite shower. Driveway, detached garage and charming rear garden. (EPC: E). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £339,950

2 HARBEN GARDENS
SCHOOL LANE, COVEN

A stunning new build detached bungalow in a select development of just four homes. The property has be built to an exceptional standard and offers three bedrooms, lounge, well equipped kitchen, bathroom and en-suite. There is off road parking and a garage to the front of the property and a lovely rear garden. The development is nearing the end of construction. (EPC: tbc). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £314,995

1, 2 & 3 THE GREEN
BRINETON, SHIFNAL

Three stunning cottages recently renovated to an impeccable standard now being offered for sale. Delightful quiet Hamlet location, under 2 miles from the A5. A superb four bedroom accommodation with views. A superb three bedroom accommodation with views and a lovely two bedroom with views.
For further details or to arrange a viewing please contact our Bridgnorth Office on 01746 766499

PRICES FROM £280,000 - £425,000

109 LIMES ROAD
TETTENHALL

A particularly well presented Victorian property providing charming accommodation with the additional benefit of a detached garage to the rear. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility / cloakroom, two bedrooms, shower room and insulated and boarded loft. Pretty rear garden and garage and parking to the rear.
(EPC: D). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £250,000

11 WIMBORNE ROAD
FALLINGS PARK

Extended, three bedroom detached house in sought after location with transport links to Wolverhampton, double glazing and gas central heating. The well presented accommodation comprises porch, hall, dining room, extended lounge, conservatory, kitchen with pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom, tandem garage, workshop and delightful garden to the rear. (EPC: F). WOMBOURNE OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £219,950

2 CRANE HOLLOW
WOMBOURNE

Three bedroom semi-detached property situated on a favoured development having UPVc double glazing and gas central heating. Accommodation comprises hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes) and bathroom. Tarmac driveway providing parking for several vehicles leading to garage and rear garden. (EPC: C). WOMBOURNE OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £172,500

220 WESTACRE CRESCENT
FINCHFIELD

A deceptively spacious, ex-municipally built end-terrace house occupying a good-sized corner plot situated in a popular residential address within convenient access of local facilities and the City Centre. Hall, well proportioned L-shaped living room affording lounge and dining areas, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a re-fitted shower room. Front lawn and large, established rear garden. (EPC: D). TETTENHALL OFFICE.

OFFERS AROUND £139,950

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41 Bumblehole Meadows
Wombourne
Offers Around £249,950

A modern family detached home in a fantastic location. Briefly comprising of a good size lounge, separate dining room, conservatory and modern fitted kitchen with utility and downstairs w/c. Three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom to the first floor. There is off road parking, a garage and a pleasant rear garden with views across the canal. EPC:D

16 Sytch Lane
Wombourne
Offers Around £209,950

This well presented three bedroom semi detached property is ideally situated for Blakeley Heath Primary School and within walking distance of shops and bus routes. A good sized lounge with conservatory and fitted kitchen. Three bedrooms and a refitted family bathroom. Off road parking, an integral garage and a pleasant rear garden. GCH & DG. EPC: tbc

23 Clark Road
Compton
Offers Around £199,950

This property is a traditionally appointed bay fronted 1930's semi detached residence with off road parking and a garage. The property comprises a lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen, side lobby, three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite. There is a large rear garden with elevated patio and rear vehicular or bin access. EPC:E

85 Dunval Road
Bridgnorth
Offers Around £199,950

This three bedroom semi-detached property provides excellent access to local schools and shops and is presented to a very good standard. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The rear garden is enclosed and there is a large space to the side which could be used for secured parking, as well as the ample off road parking to the front. EPC:D

13 Glendale Drive
Wombourne
Offers Around £194,950

A three bedroom semi detached property benefiting from good views, double glazing, GCH, drive and garage in the sought after village of Wombourne. GCH & DG. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: D

SALE AGREED IN JUST 3 DAYS!!!

4 Cumberland Road
Bilston
Offers Around £185,000

A detached family home with two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three double bedrooms, bathroom. Various outbuildings including garage, store room and w/c. GCH & DG and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:C

SALE AGREED IN JUST 2 DAYS!!!

17 Westering Parkway
Moseley Parklands
Offers Around £175,000

A detached family home with good sized living accommodation. An open plan lounge and dining area and fitted kitchen. There are three bedrooms and a family bathroom fitted with a white suite. There is off road parking to the front of the property, a carport and garage and a pleasant secure rear garden.. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:D

38 The Meadlands
Wombourne
Offers Around £172,000

A well presented, mid terrace property overlooking the Wom Brook Nature Reserve. The property has a large open plan lounge/dining room, a modern kitchen with a door to the rear garden, three bedrooms and a house bathroom. There is a low maintenance rear garden with gated access to the garage. GCH, DG and NO UPWARD CHAIN. (EPC: D)

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Hough Way, Wolverhampton

- POPULAR LOCATION
- DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE STORY
- SIX BEDROOMS
- TWO ENSUITES
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in the region of £425,000

No Chain

Tudor Crescent, Wolverhampton

- Large Detached House
- Five/Six Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Utility Room
- Outbuildings
- Garage

Offers In Excess Of £375,000

No Chain

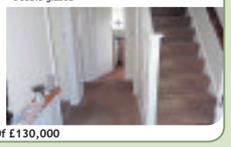
Hallam Crescent, Wolverhampton

- Detached home
- Four bedrooms
- Three reception rooms
- Off road parking
- Cul de sac location
- Perfect for access to Wolverhampton

Offers In The Region

Kenton Avenue, Wolverhampton

- Semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Rear garden
- Close to amenities
- Double glazed



Offers In The Region Of £130,000

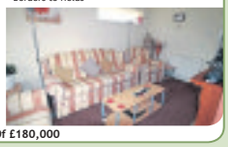
Rudyard Close, Wolverhampton

- Semi-detached property
- Immaculate condition
- Garage
- Brilliant access to M54 and Wolverhampton
- Close to local amenities
- Quiet road
- Double glazed and gas central heated

Offers in the region of £174,950

Lichfield Road, Wolverhampton

- SOLD WITH SITTING TENANTS
- Immaculate condition throughout
- New boiler
- Conservatory
- Two large bedrooms
- Garage
- Generous tidy garden
- Borders to fields



Offers in The Region Of £180,000

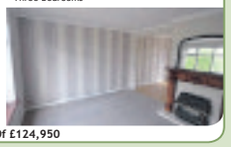
Barbel Drive, Wolverhampton

- Ideal investment or first time purchase
- Minimum rental yield of 6%
- Ground floor
- Allocated parking
- Quiet development
- Close to local amenities and schools

Offers In The Of

East Park Way, Wolverhampton

- Close to city centre
- Terraced House
- Porch
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Downstairs W.C
- Three Bedrooms



Offers in The Region Of £124,950

Park Drive, Wolverhampton

- Massive renovation potential
- Three bedrooms
- Huge basement rooms
- Garage
- Huge rear garden
- Quiet road
- Close to local amenities
- Off road parking

Offers in The Excess Of £170,000

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No Chain

Firsvale Road, Wolverhampton

- Corner plot
- Two large bedrooms
- Ideal for investors or first time buyers!
- Property to be sold with tenant
- Close to amenities
- Close to local schools
- Family bathroom
- Garage

Offers In The Excess Of £135,000

NEW

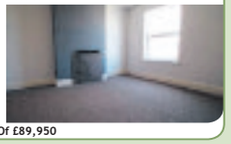
Kendal Close, Wolverhampton

- Traditional Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Off Road Parking

Offers In The Region Of £124,950

Gough Street, Willenhall

- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- On road parking
- Ideal for investors and first time buyers
- Three-story
- Gas central



Offers In The Region Of £89,950

NEW

Hart Road, Wednesfield

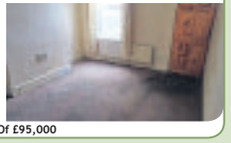
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Ideal Investment
- No Chain

Offers In The Region Of £75,000

No Chain

Norfolk Road, Wolverhampton

- Three bedrooms
- Mid terrace
- No upward chain
- Enclosed rear garden
- Bathroom
- Quiet road
- Close to local amenities
- Within local school catchment



Offers In The Region Of £95,000

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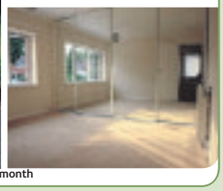
Rosewood Gardens,Wolverhampton
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- Seperate Living Room
- SORRY NO DHSS
- EPC - D
- ?90 Process Fee (per person)

£695 Per calendar month

Hollybank Avenue,Wolverhampton
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Double Glazing
- Electric heating
- Off road parking
- Rear garden
- Great local ammenities
- Garage
- Available now



£650 per calendar month

Neachells Lane,Wolverhampton
- First Floor Flat
- Lounge / Kitchen
- Bedroom
- NEWLY FITTED BATHROOM
- DHSS Accepted

£325 Per calendar

Cross Street,Willenhall
- Located in the Town Centre
- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted
- Half price fees

£325 Per Calendar month

Birmingham New Road,Bilston
- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen
- Secure Entrance
- Allocated Parking
- Fitted Bathroom
- Great transport links
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£495 Per calendar Month

Acorn Street,Acorn Street
- Two Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric heating
- Secure Parking
- Sorry No Pets
- DHSS Accepted

£450 per calendar month

Penn Road,Wolverhampton
- One Bedroom
- Ground Floor Flat
- Seperate Kitchen
- Entrance Hallway
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED
- Close to Wolverhampton city centre
- MUST VIEW

£375 Per calendar month

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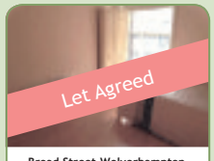

Broad Street,Wolverhampton
- City Centre Living
- Secure Private Entrance
- Large Lounge
- Perfect For Students/Professionals
- Available Early July
- Must View

£350 Per Calender

High Street,Wolverhampton
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Duplex
- Secure entrance

£425 Per Calender

Broad Gauge Way,Wolverhampton
- First Floor Apartment
- Modern High Gloss Kitchen
- Open Plan Living / Dining Area
- BALCONY
- Two Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite_
- Walking Distance to the City Centre

£600 Per Calender

Newbridge Crescent,Tetenhall
- Upper floor Apartment
- Large Rooms Throughout
- Modern Bathroom
- Popular Location
- Sorry No Pets
- Sorry No DHSS

£425 Per Calender

Blackberry Lane,Sutton Coldfield
- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen With Appliances
- Allocated Parking
- Available Unfurnished

£550 Per Calender

Hough Way,Wolverhampton
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- Close To Primary Schools
- Popular Location
- New Build Property

£550 Per Calender

Rosehill Gardens,Willenhall
- Three Bedroom House
- Semi-Detatched
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£395 Per Calender

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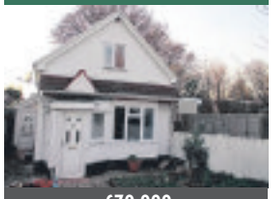

£70,000

- Auction T&C's Apply
- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- Lounge & Dining room
- Double glazing & Central heating
- Driveway parking
- EPC = TBA

East Park Way Wolverhampton

£95,000

- Auction T&C's Apply
- Three bedroom terrace
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off-road parking
- EPC = D

Wellington Road Wolverhampton

VIEWING ESSENTIAL!

£259,950

A three bedroom detached family house set in a popular and convenient location which is in easy reach of Bilston town center and Wolverhampton city center. The Bus and tram stops are both close by. This house offers generous accommodation including, two reception rooms, extended fitted kitchen,useful guest wc. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and the family bathroom. Outside a gated driveway gives access to off road parking for several cars,to the rear of the property there is alow maintenance paved rear garden. The home also has central heating and double glazing. No Chain. EPC = TBC

Willenhall Road Wolverhampton

£130,000

- Auction T&C s Apply
- Shop With Two Bed Flat Above
- Retail space and stock room
- Self Contained Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- EPC = TBC

Saffron Gardens Wolverhampton

£199,950

- Three bedroom detached
- Cul-de-sac location
- Lounge & Dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Car port & Garage
- EPC=TBC

Warstones Road Penn

£69,950

- Two bedroom maisonette
- Popular residential location
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazing
- Off-road parking
- EPC = TBA

Worcester Street Wolverhampton

£70,000

- First Floor Maisonette
- Two Bedrooms
- Open plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Central Heating
- City Center Location
- EPC = TBC

Kenley Avenue Wolverhampton

£127,500

- MODERN three bedroom property
- Large lounge with doors to garden
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Driveway parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- EPC = C

Upper Street

£129,950

- Two bedroom maisonette
- Residents only parking
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Communal gardens
- EPC - tbc

Kenley Avenue Off Ettingshall Road

£144,950

- Three bedroom end-terrace
- New build development
- Dining kitchen
- Downstairs toilet
- Master bedroom with En-Suite
- EPC - C

Warstones Road Penn

£160,000

- Extended Traditional Style Semi
- Sought After Location
- Two Reception Roms
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- EPC = TBA

Ainsworth Road

£169,950

- Three bedroom semi-detached
- Lounge & Dining room
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Double glazing & Central heating
- Driveway parking & Garage
- EPC = TBA

St. Andrews Drive Perton

£230,000

- Four bedroom detached
- Cul-de-sac location
- Kitchen & Dining area
- Downstairs toilet
- Driveway Parking & Garage
- EPC - TBC

Tong Road Bishops Wood

£290,000

- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- Two bathrooms
- Lounge & Dining room
- Conservatory
- Driveway parking & Garage
- EPC = TBA

Green Acres Tettenhall

£299,995

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- No Chain
- Garage
- Sought After Location
- EPC = TBC

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Wolverhampton 01902 427257

Gail Park Bradmore

£115,000

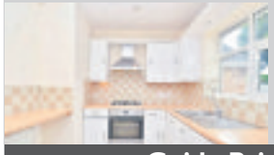
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- First Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage
- Gas Central Heating
- EPC = C

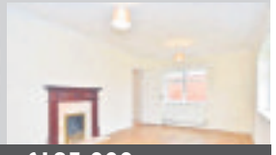
Gosport Close Wolverhampton

£115,000

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Guest WC
- Kitchen/Diner
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC = D

Oxley Moor Road Oxley





Guide Price£185,000

For sale by Modern Method of Auction; Starting Bid Price £185.000 plus Reservation Fee.••• OFFERED WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN ••• A well presented three bedroom detached bungalow. The property has accommodation including, Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, detached double garage, generous off road parking, front and rear gardens. Conveniently located on the fringe, of north Wolverhampton, the property is conveniently placed for access to amenities and good road networks. VIEWING ESSENTIAL This property is for sale by The West Midlands Property Auction, powered by iam-sold ltd.EPC = D

Lulworth Walk Wolverhampton

£124,950

- Three bedroom mid-terrace
- Lounge & Dining area
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazing & Central heating
- Rear parking
- EPC = D

Wessex Road Parkfields

£139,950

- Semi Detached House
- Recently Constructed
- Three Bedrooms
- Guest Wc
- OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN
- EPC = B

Oxley Moor Road Oxley

£164,950

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Superb Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- EPC = D

Wergs Place, Wergs Road Tettenhall

£340,000

- Two En-suites
- Cloakroom
- Dressing Room
- Single Intergral Garage
- Incentives Available
-

Crossland Crescent Claregate

£155,000

- Three bedroom semi-detached
- Extended lounge
- Extended kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Off-road parking
- EPC = TBA

Hinstock Close Penn

£155,000

- End Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Dining Kitchen
- Cul-de-sac
- EPC = D

South Crescent Featherstone

£169,950

- Semi Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Garage
- EPC = D

Penderell Close Featherstone

£174,950

- Four Bedroom Semi
- Lounge Diner
- Conservatory
- Extended Kitchen
- Block Paved Driveway
- EPC = D

Tyrley Close Compton

£219,950

- Extended Three Bedroom Detached
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Driveway Parking & Garage
- EPC = D

Weston Drive Wolverhampton

£83,000

- Two bedroom ground Floor Flat
- Allocated parking
- Double Glazed & Electric heating
- Communal gardens
- No Upward Chain
- EPC = E

High Street Albrighton

£94,950

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace
- Fitted kitchen
- Parking & Visitors Parking
- Over 55's only
- EPC = C

Upper Vauxhall Wolverhampton

£94,950

- Ground Floor Maisonette
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Ideal Investment Oportunity
- EPC = D

Paul Dubberley

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BILSTON

Bay Avenue, Bilston, WV14
£245,000

5 Bedroom modern detached family house

Lees Terrace, Bilston, WV14
£100,000

REFURBISHED BUNGALOW NO UPWARD CHAIN Two bedroom semi-detatched property

Bradley Lane, Bilston, WV14
£90,000

SIZE AND LOCATION! THIS IS THE ONE! 3 bedroom semi-detached house

Cavendish Road, Wolverhampton, WV1
£115,000

NO UPWARD CHAIN AND NOT TO BE MISSED 3 Bedroom End Terrace

Birmingham New Road, Bilston, WV14
£140,000

GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING IMPORTANT TO YOU 3 Bed semi detached

Jordan Place, Bilston, WV14
£145,000

YOU CAN PUT YOUR OWN MARK ON THIS ONE Three Bedroom Detached Property

Redwood Road, Bilston, WV14
£110,000

FIRST TIME BUYERS, THIS ONE NOT TO BE MISSED Two Bedroom Mid-Terraced Property

Dover Street, Bilston, WV14
£210,000

INVESTORS DREAM Five Bedroom Traditional Terraced House

Whitegates Road, Bilston, WV14
£145,000

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND ENJOY RENOVATING THIS ONE 3 Bedroom Detached

Steven Drive, Bilston, WV14
£68,000

IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE OR INVESTMENT Modern 1 bedroom property

Bridgewater Drive, Bilston, WV14
£155,000

THIS ONE IS A STUNNER! MUST VIEW 3 Bedroom Semi Detached

Carlton Avenue, Bilston, WV14
£170,000

3 Bedroom detached house with no upward chain

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69 Church Street, Bilston WV14 OAT

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Paul Dubberley

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WILLENHALL

Penmire Grove, Walsall, WS4
£139,950

FANTASTIC modern two bedroom property situated on a sought after residential development. Call 01902 633323 today!

Harry Perks Street, Willenhall, WV13
£139,995

BRAND NEW Property On Modern Development! LAST REMAINING PLOTS! Call 01902 633323 TODAY!

Lawrence Street, Willenhall, WV13
£134,995

Fantastic Opportunity To Buy This Spacious Two Bedroom House On The Exclusive Development 01902 633323.

Lawrence Street, Willenhall, WV13
£134,995

BRAND NEW Property On Modern Development! LAST REMAINING PLOTS! Call 01902 633323 TODAY!

Burford Close, Willenhall, WV13
£130,000

Modern Build 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow in a Cul-de-Sac Location, call for viewing 01902 633323!

Honeybourne Way, Willenhall, WV13
£210,000

Large Family Home On Popular Kingfisher Estate! Viewing Essential! Call 01902 633323 today! OPEN DAY SATURDAY 21ST CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Keysmith Close, Willenhall, WV13
£80,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT IN POPULAR RESIDENTIAL LOCATION! 01902 633323!

Drancy Avenue, Willenhall, WV12
£100,000

PERFECT 1ST TIME BUY/INVESTMENT PROPERTY! Two bedroom townhouse in popular residential location! Call today for your appointment!

Aspen Grove, Willenhall, WV12
£160,000

A 2 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW located on a POPULAR DEVELOPMENT CALL FOR YOUR FREE VALUATION! 01902 633323!

Yale Road, Willenhall, WV13
£100,000

A very well presented 2 bedroom Top floor SOLD! call now similar properties required! 01902 633323!

Smiths Flour Mill
£110,000

FANTASTIC Modern Two Bedroom Apartment In Canal Side Location! Not To Be Missed - Call 01902 633323 today!

New Croft Drive, Willenhall, WV13
£135,000

Recently Built Two Bedroom Spacious Family Home In Popular Residential Location! Please Call 01902 633323 To Book Your Appointment!The property, which is gas central heated and PVC double glazed, briefly

New Year New Start

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...take a look at our success rate

Address	Viewings	Offers	% of Asking price achieved
Ward Road	5	1	99%
Day Avenue	6	1	98%
Wombrook Court	3	2	97%
Church Lane	6	2	97%
Larch Gardens	4	1	97%
Moreton Road	1	2	98%
Stafford Road	(OH) 3	2	97%
Victoria Road	9	1	98%
York Avenue	8	1	97%
Lane Green Avenue	3	2	97%
Hornby Road	13	7	99%
Shop Lane	7	1	98%
Lytton Avenue	7	1	100%
Swan Bank	(OH) 16	4	96%
Barbell Drive	6	2	98%
Sandringham Road	(OH) 15	5	100%
Underhill Lane	8	2	97%

(OH - Open House Viewings)

The above results are based on "Sold Subject to Contract" data and are correct at time of printing

If another agent is already instructed on a Sole Agency basis, the terms and conditions of those instructions must be considered to avoid the possible liability of paying two commissions

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40 per cent ownership of maisonette is now available

BLOXWICH
£44,950

This stunning ground floor apartment in Eagleworks Drive, Bloxwich with its own private access, is for sale at 40 per cent shared ownership at £44,950 with the option to buy the full share.

This immaculately presented ground floor maisonette is close to all local amenities and bus routes.

Via its own entrance the accommodation briefly comprises a through hallway, lounge/diner, kitchen, two double bedrooms and bathroom.

There is allocated parking and visitor parking. Internal viewing is essential to fully appreciate how much this home has to offer its new buyers.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, please contact Webbs Estate Agents on 01922 663399.

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"WATLING BARN" WATERY BANK, ST19 9ER ● Exquisite Barn Conversion in glorious semi-rural setting, perfectly positioned for commuting to Telford, W-ton, West Midlands and further afield ● Stunning accommodation of immense character and superlative specification blending rustic and contemporary styles to delightful overall effect ● Hall with Cloakroom ● Two Living Rooms ● 20ft Breakfast Kitchen with fine range of fittings and appliances ● Galleried Landing with Study area ● Master Bedroom with superb mezzanine Bathroom en-suite ● Two further Bedrooms, one with en-suite Shower Room ● Luxurious Bathroom ● Parking facilities ● Elevated patio garden with southerly aspect ● Lovely private landscaped garden to rear ● (EPC:D)
£450,000

WOMBOURNE

COPPER BEECH DRIVE ● Outstanding 4 Bed executive style Detached in popular residential setting just off premier Greenhill a short walk from the village centre facilities and handy for schools ● Substantially enlarged and updated in recent years ● Spacious Reception Hall ● Guest's Cloakroom ● 20ft through Lounge with 'Minster' style fireplace and adjoining Dining Room ● Superbly fitted Kitchen with Rangemaster cooker opening though to spacious Garden Room ● Utility Lobby ● Master Bedroom with wardrobes and luxuriously fitted En-Suite ● 3 further Bedrooms, two with wardrobes ● House Bathroom ● Garage ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Ample off-road Parking ● Private lawned garden to rear with extensive paved patio (EPC: D)
OFFERS AROUND £450,000

WOMBOURNE

CANNON ROAD ● Delightfully positioned 3 Bed Detached with spacious Conservatory set within an established residential position of popularity a short level walk from the village centre facilities and schools of all grades ● Smartly presented interior ● Canopy Porch ● Fitted Guest's Cloakroom off Entrance Hall ● 23ft Lounge ● Spacious 21ft "P" shaped uPVC double glazed Conservatory with heating and fitted roof blinds ● Neatly fitted Kitchen with appliances ● 3 good Bedrooms, two with wardrobes ● Refitted Shower Room ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Large Garage (21'6" x 12'3") and driveway parking ● Generous sized rear Garden with greenhouse and timber shed (EPC: tbc)
OFFERS AROUND £289,950

WOMBOURNE

SCHOOL ROAD
● Conveniently positioned and smartly presented modern style 4 Bed Detached situated literally just around the corner from the picturesque village centre, shopping facilities and a short walk from schools ● Roomy interior layout in 'move-in' ready condition ● Side Hall with fitted Guest's Cloakroom ● Full-width 18ft Lounge with exquisite marble fireplace ● Dining Room ● Conservatory ● Well fitted Breakfast Kitchen with built-in appliances ● 4 Bedrooms, two with wardrobes and one with En-Suite ● House Bathroom ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Extensive block-paved driveway parking ● Carport and Garage in tandem ● Easily maintainable rear garden with raised paved patio and entertainment decking ● MOTIVATED SELLER - KEEN TO MOVE ● (EPC: D)
OFFERS AROUND £279,950

COVEN

● Spacious traditional-style Semi offering excellent family accommodation in highly popular setting within short walk of the village centre. ● Extended layout of surprisingly generous size and very comfortably appointed specification. Internal inspection essential. ● Bay-fronted Sitting Room. ● 19 ft. Lounge. ● 18 ft. Dining Room. ● Neatly fitted 15 ft. Kitchen. ● Utility/Laundry and ground floor W.C. ● Four Bedrooms (Two with fitted wardrobes). ● Large Bathroom with smart white suite featuring both bath and separate shower cubicle. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage plus forecourt parking for several cars. ● Nicely landscaped garden extending 100 ft. to rear. (EPC: E)
OFFERS AROUND £275,000

WOMBOURNE

COMMON ROAD ● Very stylishly presented and usefully enlarged 3 Bed traditional style Semi, conveniently placed on southern village periphery near to local shopping and public transport and not far from Sainsbury's and schools of all grades ● Interior inspection recommended to appreciate quality of interior ● Recessed Porch and Hall ● Elegant Dining Room with period style fireplace ● 20ft extended Lounge, also with period style fireplace and living flame gas fire ● Stunning Breakfast Kitchen with an excellent range of fitted units including Rangemaster cooker and dishwasher ● Utility/Toilet ● 3 Bedrooms ● Stylishly refitted Bathroom with shower ● Gas CH and part uPVC double glazing ● Garage Store (7'2" x 6'4") ● Gravelled driveway parking ● Extensive lawned rear garden (EPC: tbc)
OFFERS AROUND £225,000

CODSALL

● Traditional-style Semi enjoying excellent setting at end of cul-de-sac adjoining open fields on the outskirts of the village. ● Enlarged layout provides good family accommodation but with dated specification in need of upgrading and refurbishment. ● Porch and Hall. ● Bay-fronted Lounge. ● Separate Sitting/Dining Room. ● Kitchen. ● Three generously proportioned Bedrooms. ● Spacious Bathroom plus separate Toilet. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage plus driveway parking. ● 90 ft. rear garden with south-easterly aspect. (EPC: E)
OFFERS AROUND £224.950

OFF TETTENHALL ROAD

● Particularly attractive Detached Bungalow of double-fronted design, handily placed with good local amenities within easy walking distance and convenient access into city centre. ● Typically well proportioned accommodation, nicely presented with pleasant blend of traditional character and stylish modern specification. ● Open plan Dining Hall. ● Sitting Room with Minster-style feature fireplace. ● Superbly appointed Kitchen including range cooker and American-style fridge-freezer. ● Two double Bedrooms, one with range of fitted wardrobes. ● Excellent Bathroom featuring both bath and separate shower. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage (presently converted to versatile Office/Study/Gym/Playroom). ● Gated driveway parking facility. ● Compact gardens with impressive railed frontage and southerly aspect to rear including timber-decked patio area. (EPC: E)
OFFERS AROUND £185,000

PENN

● Particularly attractive traditional-style semi enjoying very pleasant setting in consistently popular locality well served by good selection of amenities. ● Nicely presented accommodation of individual design and stylishly appointed specification. ● Porch and Hall. ● Bay-fronted Sitting Room. ● Separate Dining Room open plan to neatly fitted Kitchen. ● Utility/Garden Room. ● Three Bedrooms (largest with extensive fitted wardrobes/cupboards). ● Smart white Bathroom including Shower. ● Partial gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Paviour-effect forecourt parking facilities. ● Narrow side passage to "Garage-sized" Store/Workshop. ● Mature landscaped garden including timber-decked patio area. (EPC: E)
OFFERS AROUND £169,950

NEWBRIDGE

● Ground Floor Flat occupying one of the best positions in the complex with pleasant views onto leafy Newbridge Crescent and short walk to Tettenhall Road amenities. ● Comfortably proportioned accommodation with dated specification requiring scheme of upgrading and modernisation. ● Living Room. ● Basic Kitchen. ● Two double Bedrooms each with built-in wardrobes. ● Basic Bathroom. ● UPVC-framed double glazed windows. ● Garage in nearby court within communal grounds. ● LEASEHOLD. Ground Rent and Service Charge payable. (EPC: F)
OFFERS AROUND £64,950

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Tel: (01902) 759888

Wombourne
House-On-The-Green High Street Wombourne WV5 9DN
Tel: (01902) 894141

Codsall
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Tel: (01902) 845215

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NEWBRIDGE £289,999

OFFERS INVITED!

NEWBRIDGE CRESCENT

Modernised and well-presented throughout. 2 large reception rooms, a breakfast-kitchen, guest WC, 4 bedrooms and family bathroom. Benefits from uPVC DG and radiator CH, detached garage and a generous plot with open frontage and enclosed rear gardens. Great family home - make an offer! (EPC 63=D)

4 2 1

MERRY HILL £239,000

WITH NO CHAIN & OFFERS INVITED!

BHYLLS LANE

A trad detached residence situated within the popular western fringe of W'TON. Offered with no upwards chain this spacious and well-presented accommodation should be viewed to fully appreciate its size and further potential. (EPC 49 = E)

3 3 1

WOLVERHAMPTON £675* PCM

NEW INSTRUCTION

BROAD GAUGE WAY

2 BED FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT
FURNISHED
CITY CENTRE/RAILWAY STATION
WALKING DISTANCE
EPC 78 = C

2 1 2

CHAPEL ASH £189,950

NEW PRICE

COMPTON ROAD

A fine late Georgian Period home (Grade II Listed) with a classical style in great location for access to the City Centre. Easy transport links via Ring Road to all points and great schools within a short walk. Features include: Cellar, sash windows and high ceilings. Viewing is highly recommended. Offers invited for consideration. (EPC 62 = D)

3 1 1

BRADMORE £139,000

MUST BE VIEWED!

CHURCH ROAD

A charming traditional terraced home, modernised yet retaining much character, South of the City and with a wealth of amenities at hand. Well presented the property benefits from radiator CH and DG (both where specified), feature bathroom and cared-for gardens. Viewing is most highly recommended for full appreciation. (EPC 62=D)

2 2 1

WOLVERHAMPTON £595* PCM

NEW INSTRUCTION

MARKET SQUARE

FURNISHED 2 BED APARTMENT
FIRST FLOOR
SECURE ALLOCATED PARKING
2 BATHROOMS
EPC 65 = D

2 1 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2016, phew, what a year! Many a shocking event across the world and at home. At times it seems the world has gone mad. But what of the day to day and in particular the world related to property. Well there's been many a twist and turn - BTL with its 3% SDT surcharge and other 'tweaks' to tax and such! The growth of the 'Bank of Mum&Dad' whereby 46% of FTBs are expectantly reliant of help from family. 25% of last year's sales had parents help with an incredible average £17,500 towards deposits! London is stalling. Equity release boomed to record levels and unsurprisingly homeownership fell to its lowest level since 1986. The Bank base rate also fell to a record low of 0.25% and there was yet further quantitative easing. Plus many changes to the political establishment! Then there's Brexit. The people have spoken, its going to be goodbye Europe hello the World. So what do we have to look forward to in 2017? - The implication of more rigorous underwriting assessments and stress tests for BTL Landlords. Equity release is expected to increase even further. Property supply is expected to remain low. Interest rates may well finally rise. Article 50 should be triggered. Further afield and with potential ripples, we have an incoming new President of the USA and a handful of key Euro countries going to the polls. Interesting times ahead. But for now, bar a relatively low level of property to market (a great time to sell!) the country hasn't imploded as some predicted and life goes on. Take a chance, dip your toe, Spring is traditionally a great time to move. Call us for a FREE market appraisal. We have some fabulous deals on our commission packages over the next few weeks!

Adam Whitehouse

BILSTON £142,000

NO UPWARDS CHAIN

PROUDS LANE

Detached home with massive potential! Currently 2 Bedroom and monster Bathroom. 40ft Garage plus extra land at rear! Knotweed Treatment Guarantee. NO CHAIN! (EPC 71 = C)

2 1 1

WOLVERHAMPTON £575* PCM

LET AGREED

EMERSON GROVE

NEWLY REFURBISHED
3 BEDROOM SEMI
DINING KITCHEN
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC 51 = E

3 1 1

OXLEY £115,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

ELMDON ROAD

A traditional semi detached, corner position, extended garage/utility/WC. DG and rad CH (both where specified), ideal for M54 and i54 commute. With no upwards chain and offers invited, give us a call! (EPC 70 = C)

3 2 1

PERTON £79,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

WAVENEY AVENUE

Ground floor flat in a development for those aged over 55. uPVC DG, radiator CH, plus kitchen and shower room. Parking space and communal lawn gardens. Leasehold and on a fixed shared ownership basis of 70/30%. No additional rent is payable, simply a service charge. (EPC 74 = C)

2 1 1

MERRY HILL £475* PCM

FAREHAM CRESCENT

ONE BED FIRST FLOOR MAISONETTE
DECORATED IN NEUTRAL COLOURS
GOOD SIZE LIVING ROOM
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC 74 = C

1 1 1

BILSTON £95,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

LEES TERRACE

Partly modernised having brand new Kitchen and wetroom! Some basic cosmetics to sort! Cul de sac in heart of Bradley a short walk from Metro and local shops etc. Close to Bilston and bus services. Driveway, some double glazing and central heating. No upward chain! (EPC 63 = D)

2 1 1

ETTINGSHALL £94,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

BOYDON CLOSE

An incredible family home ready to move in for Owner Occupiers or Landlords alike! Up to FOUR good Bedrooms over 3 floors! GCH and D/Glazing (where specified). No upwards chain. (EPC 73 = C)

4 1 2

BILSTON £79,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

BAGNALL ROAD

Great starter home or investment property! Close to the heart of Bilston. Some upgrading is needed, ideal as a project. Good living room together with dining/kitchen, additional utility veranda and WC. 2 good bedrooms and large bathroom. Useful security controlled rear access to gates into the rear garden. No Chain. (EPC 56 = D)

2 1 1

BILSTON £450* PCM

NEW INSTRUCTION

DEREHAM WALK

2 BEDROOMS
QUIET RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
FEATURE FIREPLACE
MUST BE VIEWED
EPC 71 = C

2 1 1

* Applicants for rental properties are charged a non-refundable fee of £84 each to cover credit check and referencing

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WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 577775 BILSTON 01902 577767 LETTINGS 01902 577799

Unique property within walking distance of the town centre

WOLVERHAMPTON
£135,000 <<<

A unique property, 8 Devon Road, Wolverhampton, is within walking distance of the university and city centre

Also being next to West Park, it is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £135,000.

It is ideally suited to a professional person or buy-to-let investor looking for an easy maintenance home. The property occupies an attractive position overlooking West Park, incorporating part of the original listed building and offers versatile accommodation arranged over three floors.

It has an entrance hallway, a breakfast kitchen, a living room, a first floor landing with a walk-in store and double bedroom, second floor with loft access, double bedroom and bathroom. Within the gated courtyard is an allocated parking space and bicycle store.

Contact Sanders Wright & Freeman on 01902 575555.

Three-bed detached in a popular location

BILSTON
£259,950

This three-bedroomed detached house in Wellington Road, Bilston, lies in a convenient location within easy reach of Bilston and Wolverhampton town centres.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £259,950 with no chain.

It also has bus and tram stops close by.

This house has generous accommodation including two reception rooms, an extended kitchen, a guest WC, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a gated driveway giving off road parking for several cars, a paved rear garden and central heating and double glazing.

For further information, call DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

ARLA

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●D/G & Gas C/H●
●Mostly FURNISHED●
●Good Amenities●
●Available NOW●
Rent £495.00 P.C.M

MERRIDALE COURT

●●Merridale Court●●
●Lovely 2 Bed Flat●
●Modern Kitchen & Bathroom●
●Easy Access To The City●
●FULLY FURNISHED●
●Available December●
Rent £525.00 P.C.M

FINCHFIELD

●●Spruce Way●●
●Lovely 2 Bed Apartment●
●CAN BE FURNISHED @£600●
●D/G & Gas C/H●
●Garage●
●Superbn Location●
Rent £550.00 P.C.M

CITY CENTRE

●●Southbank Apartments●●
●Superb Ground Floor Flat●
●Bathroom ● En-Suite●
●Close To The City●
●Available February●
Rent £575.00 P.C.M

CITY CENTRE

●●ALBION STREET●●
●FULLY FURNISHED●
●En-Suite To Master Bed●
●In tHe Heart Of The City●
●Available February●
Rent £595.00 P.C.M

WOMBOURNE

●●Foley Grove●●
●Stunning 2 Bed House●
●Quiet Location●
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Renault's first new car offers for 2017

Renault has announced a selection of offers that make owning a car from the French manufacturer even more of a tempting proposition.

With a strong focus on convenience and affordability, Renault UK has introduced brand-new two-year 0 per cent APR PCP Selections packages. Available on new Clio, Captur, all-new Mégane and all-new Mégane Sport Tourer, Kadjar, all-new Scénic and all-new Grand Scénic, these deals offer the lowest monthly payments of any of Groupe Renault UK's Selections PCP packages and, as with the brand's other PCP offers, come with the added benefit of no minimum customer deposit.

As an example, the ever-popular new Clio with its recently refreshed styling and enhanced interior and equipment can be driven from only £129 per month on a two-year 0 per cent APR PCP Selections package1. The deal on the Play 1.2 16V 75 version also includes a manufacturer deposit contribution of £850 and a customer deposit of £3,588.

Additionally, Renault UK's popular three-year 3.99 per cent APR Selections PCP packages are more affordable than ever. The deposit contributions are now the same as those for similar deals over a four-year duration, with the additional manufacturer support working to lower the total amount payable and the cost of interest.

Available alongside a variety of 0 per cent APR HP offers, the new and revised Selections PCP packages ensure that drivers enjoy even greater choice when it comes to financing their new Renault.

Cash buyers also benefit from the limited time offers. Notably, there are sizeable savings across the innovative, rear-engined, rear-wheel drive Renault Twingo range with prices starting from only £7,995 for the Expression SCe 70 – representing a saving of £1,500 on the normal list price up to savings of £2,410 on the Dynamique S TCe 90 Auto which is now available from £11,395.

Multiple cash offers are available for anyone considering joining the ever-increasing number of drivers choosing an electric vehicle with the multiple award-winning Renault Zoe in Expression Nav guise available from £11,995 (inc PiCG) – representing a £2,000 customer saving. With the longest range of any mainstream electric vehicle – up to 250 miles (NEDC Combined) or an estimated 186 miles in real world conditions – the new ZOE Dynamique R90 Z.E 40 is now available for £15,845 (inc PiCG), representing a customer saving of £2,000.

Alternatively, the new Zoe Dynamique R90 Z.E 40 can be driven away available on a five year 0 per cent APR HP package with nil customer deposit and a £2,500 manufacturer deposit contribution. In addition to all retail purchases, customers will receive a free 7kW Wall-Box home charger, making their ownership experience of the four-time winner of the What Car? 'Best Electric Car for up to £20,000' and their 2017 'Electric Car of the Year' even more convenient.

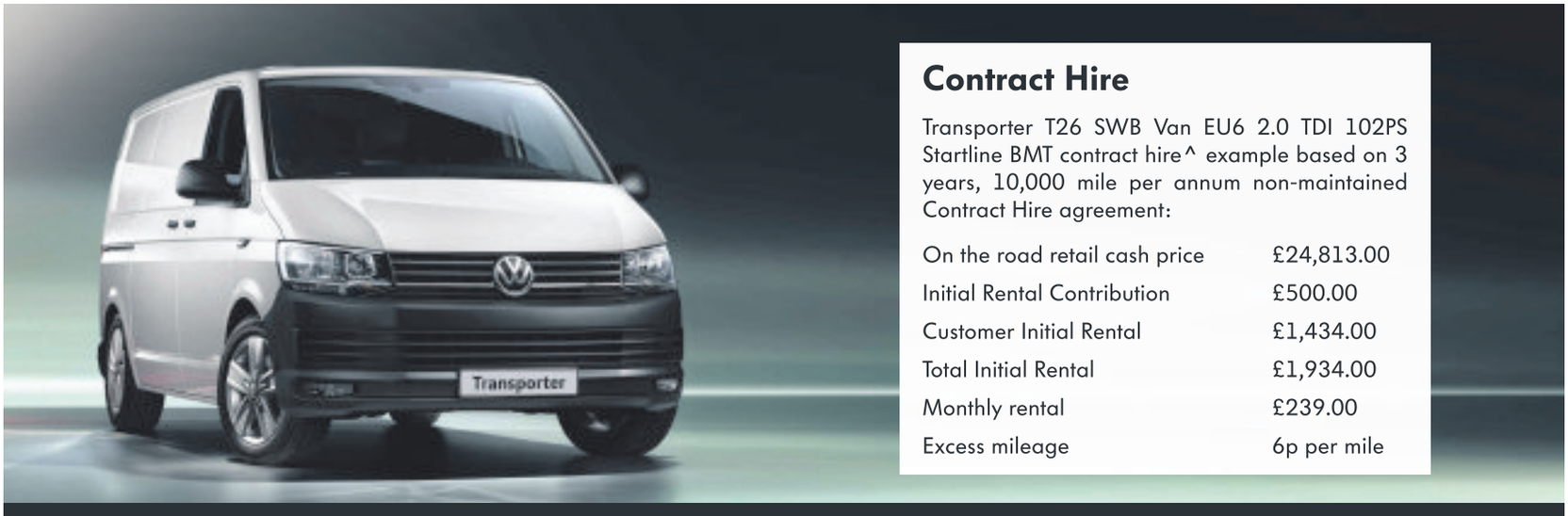
With the offers available on vehicles registered by the end of March, customers will save further by avoiding the changes in Vehicle Excise Duty that are applicable from April 1, 2017. By ordering and registering their new Renault before this date they can potentially enjoy three-figure savings.

Customers will also benefit from the Renault 4+ warranty and Renault Assistance vehicle recovery scheme, which comes as standard with every Renault and provides the ultimate peace of mind for four years or 100,000 miles.

The all-new Scenic is included in the offer

Two year 0 per cent finance on the new Megane

Renault's Clio has recently been refreshed and the interior enhanced



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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, January 19, 2017

New life breathed into latest Micra

By James Parker

NISSAN MICRA, FROM £11,995

Let's face it, the last Nissan Micra wasn't exactly a big hit in the UK market.

It was a bit too quirky compared with previous generations and what had been the first-car staple of so many young drivers became the reserve of the older generation.

Nissan has breathed a new lease of life into the latest Micra, though, bringing it into line with the rest of its product range and offering segment firsts on the safety and technology fronts. It's been redesigned from the ground up to offer far better driving performance, plus the combination of standard safety options, improved driving aids and tech developments.

It is also available with must-have extras such as Apple CarPlay integration and high-quality Bose headrest speakerss.

When it comes to looks, the fifth-generation Micra has certainly improved and is likely to win favour with those looking for a stylish but practical alternative to the traditional cars on the market. It's been given that instantly recognisable Nissan chrome 'V' around the badge and an overall much sleeker look.

It's clear that the target market for Micra is younger drivers and Nissan is hoping to capture the attention of this audience with its new customisation options. There are three levels for this, covering the exterior and interior, meaning buyers have 125 options to choose from and ensure their car stands out.

Focus on interior quality has been drastically improved. Here the Micra really sets itself apart from rivals, with soft flowing lines across the dash, built with soft-touch materials.

The new Micra has a longer wheelbase than ever, and that means more legroom for all occupants. This is another way that Nissan has challenged rivals, as it's moving away from a cramped supermini to a small hatchback. With five doors and a reasonable boot it would be appealing for any family with young children.

Looks, the drive and the economy

The doors open nice and wide too which makes this a great option for getting in and out of, especially if you're trying to get a child in the back. However, the door openings themselves aren't that big and you'll have to bend over quite considerably.

The Micra is kitted out with lane departure assistance, emergency braking, traffic sign recognition and blind spot warning, meaning you get a really comprehensive range of driving assistance for such a small car. This is standard on the top-spec Tekna but you'll have to pay extra for it if you opt for a lower grade.

The Nissan Micra is available with two engine options at launch – a 0.9-litre turbocharged petrol and a 1.5-litre diesel – both producing 89bhp. From March, when the car goes on sale, there will be a 1.0-litre naturally aspirated engine, producing 74bhp, coming to the UK but details are limited. Currently, it's only available with a five-speed manual gearbox.

The new Nissan Micra is finally a great alternative to the staples of the small hatchback market

According to Nissan, the 0.9-litre petrol engine will achieve 64.2mpg and produce 99g/km of CO2. It will achieve 0 – 60mph in 11.9 seconds with the petrol engine, continuing to 109mph, while the diesel will go marginally faster to 60mph in 11.7 seconds, reaching 111mph. The Nissan Micra is a pretty pokey little car to drive in both petrol and diesel guises, although you'll get marginally more out of the little turbo petrol.

The new Nissan Micra is finally a great alternative to the staples of the small hatchback market. It's got the looks, the drive and the economy to become a serious rival worth considering. Take into account the infotainment options available and it makes an extremely strong argument for itself to those not particularly concerned about an inspiring driving experience.

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Hire Purchase Representative Example

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Fixed Interest Rate	5.73%
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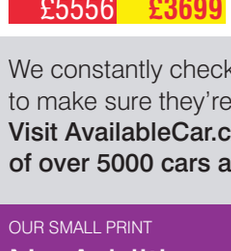

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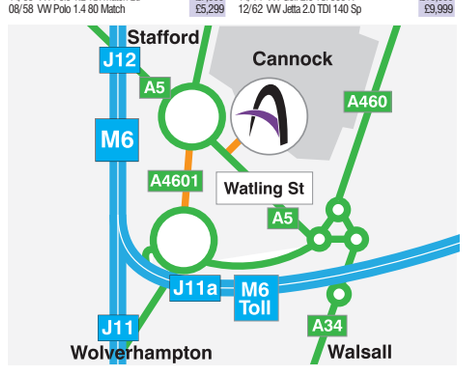

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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

jewellery & watches

IWC PRADA WATCH LIMITED EDITION
Box and papers. Excellent working order, slight scracth on case.
£2,495 or exchange for Rolex explorer with cash difference.
0121 5206534.

2 Leisure Time

bikes

TURBO TRAINER wanted, must be in good condition and reasonably priced. 01902 670017.

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES
www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk
GIGANTIC CYCLE CLEARANCE
Massive January Sale Now On!
Get your fantastic bargain now.
All cycles built and guaranteed with a 24 hour repair service
All spares and accessories at discount price
HATELEY'S
Simply the best
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car boot sales

SATURDAY BOOTSALE
Hilton by the Wheel Pub WV15 5NR
Between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth
07890 267041

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

AVONDALE ARGENTE 480/2 2007, two berth, very good condition, fully equipped to tour with, extras including generator, tracker and Truma Mover. **£2,000**
01902 737641/07831 433162

CARAVAN, absolute bargain, 2 bed, DG/CH, sited on country park, no fees till March 2018. 07590 124226.

CARAVANS & CHALETS For sale with seaviews. Ciarach Bay near Abeystyth from £4995 includes 2017 site fees. Call Phil on: 01970 820579. sales@clarachbay.com

FOR SALE WILLERBY GRANADA 2005 double glazing/central heating, decking, bargain £12,995, 07462 343 698

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 22nd January
Next Sale: 12th February
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

music shop

RECORDS/CDS/MEMORABILIA wanted & sold 50s -90s+ record shop wolves wv1 3hl 07760168972

sports & leisure

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For items upto £250.
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holidays

caravan holidays

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caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly, 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

caravan sales

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devon

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Evening Meals on request
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
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All rooms en suite
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what's on

markets

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OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
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3 Home & Services

furniture

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Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

AS NEW leather 2 seater, tan / brown settee, in excellent condition. Cost £800, bargain, sell £100. Call Sarah 07583 674268.

CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield 3 seater and 2 seater Oxblood Red sofas cost £2000.00 Need a Quick Sale will accept £895.00 can get delivered call Glenn

£895 ono

07398 185593

DOUBLE LIGHT oak headboard, from John Lewis, as new, modern style, £65 o.n.o. 07813 689769.

MEMORY FOAM mattress, double, still wrapped, easycare, cost, £250, sell £160 ono. 07521 857432.

OLD CHARM BOOKCASE, six shelves, dark oak, genuine, £300. Telephone 07866 319501.

TOP QUALITY Green leather three and two seater settees, solid oak frame, nice conditon, £200 o.n.o. 07887 891754.

household appliances

A BIG SALE NOW ON Gas and electric cookers, fires, autos, fridge freezers, tumble dryers, built in ovens, hobs and lots more. 01902 403770 Past and Present 24-26 Church St, Bilston (opp town hall).

WANTED COOKERS, fridges, washers, flat screen TV's, must be clean and working. 07944 351351

in your garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£16 each (inc vat)
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Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041
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We supply & fit. Free quotes.
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We also supply sleepers and decking

AT SHEDRITE 5% off all buildings in January. Ex display available. Wilenhall Rd WV1 2HA 01902 450137

items for sale

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LEATHER SETTEE
2 seater coffee colour, excellent condition, **£100 ono.**
Flame effect dimplex electric fire, as new, **£90 ono.**
Fridge freezer, Zanussi, good working order, **£50 ono.**
07804 039333.

items wanted

WANTED ANY OLD TOOLS
CASH PAID
Hand tools, anything considered.
01543 452491 / 07539 340307

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CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
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• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
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FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ALL COLLECTABLES from wars wanted by collector, medals, helmets, swords etc. Genuine prices paid. 07511 500337.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

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WANTED FOR CASH three piece suites, up to £100 paid Call 01785 815925/ 07947 627142.

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aerials

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All aspects of building work including:
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Arrow Guttering
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All types of roofing. Free Quotes.
01902 820996

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Block paving, Slabbing, Tarmacadam, Gravel, Walls, Steps, Rendering etc.
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Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
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12 years experience.
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All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
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upholstery

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

C.A.A.R.S ANIMAL SANCTUARY
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PET RESCUE & BOARDING KENNELS FOR DOGS AND CATS
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All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
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RGT Wolverhampton
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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CHOP
Handsome long legged Staffie boy, 3 years old, white with tan patches.

Chop is a very friendly dog and is good with most other dogs.

A responsible home is needed for him where someone would be at home most of the day, as he does suffer from separation anxiety.

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www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

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JOEY - 18 month old Tri coloured Collie.
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PHANTOM - 3 year old mostly white Border Collie.
BOBBY - 14 year old young, very handsome Collie.
SCAMPY - 7 year old lovely little Jack Russell.
01588 676106.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

SALLY Affectionate 12 year old cat looking for a new home, after owner passed away before Christmas, suit older persons. 07847 360784.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

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commercial premises

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6 Property

overseas property

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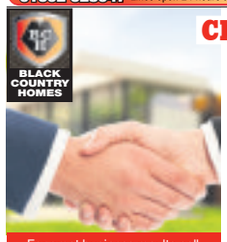

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7 Jobs

building & construction

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MALE AGED 45 seeks employment. Experienced in sales, admin etc, own transport. Contact 07891 433942.

full time - general

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Insafe
INSPIRED SECURITY

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Insafe International Limited requires an experienced Production Manager to join the busy team environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for maintaining efficiency and effectiveness of all production related manufacturing equipment and processes required to manufacture steel products, in a repeatable and cost effective manner, to ensure and deploy a weekly prioritised work schedule to the shop floor with appropriate time deadlines and targets. The individual will also be responsible for the implementation of lean manufacturing/5-S (or similar) processes, all site and plant maintenance, also ensuring that the site is compliant with the Company's ISO 9001 requirements.

Work experience required:
Mechanical background in steel fabrication together with a practical hands on approach to problem solving.
A minimum of three years work experience in this type of role with knowledge of good manufacturing processes, tools and concepts. Previous experience is required in a managerial position in a sheet metal, welding and assembly manufacturing environment. Experience of managing budgets and achieving KPI's is essential.

Key Competencies:
- Manufacturing, Engineering (including standard operations, plant lay out, waste elimination, continuous improvement)
- Broad understanding of safety systems and enforcement of safety rules and policies
- Using continuous improvement/lean tools such as lean manufacturing/5-S, to drive improvement
- Broad understanding of ISO 9001 Quality Management system

Key Responsibilities:
- To drive improvements in all related manufacturing processes including those related to products equipment
- To be responsible for the co-ordination of all aspects of Health & Safety and staff welfare within the factory
- Monitor and review production processes against deadline targets to ensure on-time delivery
- Manage, train and motivate the shop floor staff to achieve specific and agreed targets
- To develop employee's training matrix and performance appraisal
- Ensure spend is controlled within agreed budget levels
- Support, maintenance and development of ISO 9001 Quality Management
- Implement and maintain planned maintenance schemes for premises, plant and equipment
- Implement lean manufacturing/5-S (or similar) processes
- Management of the staff work levels including full control of overtime

Education/experience required:
- Minimum 3 years Production Management experience with steel fabrication environment
- Educated to GCSE level in Mathematics and English or equivalent
- Lean Manufacturing/5-S or equivalent
- Experience of managing and maintaining ISO 9001, 14001 and 18001 requirements.

Please email CV to karen.whiteley@insafe.co.uk or call Karen on 01892 557080.

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Operatives
£ between £18-£25k OTE which includes unsociable payment and bonus schemes after initial training.

Full training provided and literacy and numeracy skills are required.

HR Assistant
Experienced HR Assistant required with possible payroll experience.

Part time or full time considered.

Buyer
Experienced Buyer, ideally with experience within a metal or coatings environment. You should possess good negotiation skills and be computer literate.

We offer competitive salaries/rates of pay, together with profit share bonuses, pension and Paycare. This can also be supplemented with overtime working as and when available

If you are interested in joining us with change in mind, please do not hesitate to email hr@coopercoated.co.uk or call 01902 867900 for an initial chat/enquiry.

GLIDEX

Exciting New Post Full Time Community Engagement Officer

Kingswood Trust

37 hours per week £11.29 per hour
(3 Years Fixed Term Contract)
Suitable for job share
Start Date - March 2017 or sooner

We are seeking a full time Community Engagement Officer. This new post holder will develop local partnerships, plan and deliver practical, outdoor and environmental activities and programmes for volunteers.

You will need to be an excellent communicator, self motivated and have a background in collaboration with young people and the community. This is an exciting opportunity to shape the Trusts Community Engagement Strategy.

For a visit, application form, job description and further information please contact: Rachel Wells on 01902 558132 or email:Rachel.Wells@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Please do not send a CV.
Kingswood Trust, Holyhead Road
Kingswood, Wolverhampton WV7 3AP
Visit the website to find out about the Trusts Activities
www.discover-kingswood.org.uk

Closing Date Friday 3rd February 2017- 4.00pm
Registered Charity Number 1149688 KINGSWOOD TRUST

Car Transporter Drivers

Required for immediate start
Previous experience in driving and operating Car Transporters is essential and you must hold a C+E (Class 1 HGV Licence). Nights out are an essential part of this role. Main duties will include the collection and delivery of new & used vehicles from all over the country
Excellent pay on offer with the salary negotiable dependant on experience
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BIRWAY 01902 609579 or email a.hammonds@birway.co.uk

GW

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Reference: GW256 | Competitive hourly rate
Working in excellent facilities at our Bridgnorth site.

Must have previous pattern making experience.
Working hours are 8am till 4.30pm Monday to Thursday with an early finish on a Friday 8am till 1pm

For further information or to apply for this role, please contact Human Resources for an application form on 01746 711317 or via email at jobs@gwcast.co.uk. Alternatively, an application form is available on our website at www.gwcast.com. Please include salary expectations in your covering letter.

BJF Beth Johnson

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Staffordshire and Wolverhampton Cancer Advocacy and Support Vacancies for 2 Area Co-ordinators

Area Co-ordinator (Wolverhampton)
Area Co-ordinator (South Staffordshire)
6 Month Fixed Term Contract- 25 hours a week
Salary £18,210 pa (£26,222 FTE)

Working in partnership with and funded by Macmillan Cancer Support, an exciting opportunity has arisen for self-motivated individuals to play a key role in this project.

They will support the Project Lead and provide support to volunteer advocates as necessary to achieve the outcomes of the Staffordshire and Wolverhampton Peer Advocacy and Support Service for Older People Affected by Cancer Project.

Due to the innovative nature of the project we are looking for candidates who are enthusiastic about this project development and experience of advocacy would be advantageous.

Closing Date: 9.00am on Monday 30 January 2017
Interview Date: Wednesday 8 February 2017
An application pack is available to download from the website: www.bjf.org.uk
Please return completed applications to Debbie Everden
Email: debbie.everden@bjf.org.uk | Telephone: 01782 844036

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

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05 reg, 11 months MoT, s/h, c/l, 73,000 miles, very good condition.

Ideal first car.

£550.

07976 293994.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

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Grey.

9 months MoT.

65,000 miles.

£895 ono.

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MUST BE SEEN

MINI ONE

2004, silver,

part service history,

MoT,

excellent condition.

£950. o.n.o.

07976 645763.

SUPER BARGAIN

MITSUBISHI LANCER

08 reg.

Automatic, MoT June 2017, 70,000 miles, air con.

Excellent condition.

£895.

Telephone 0121 291 3103.

IMMACULATE

PEUGEOT 207

1.6HDi.S, 2010, black.

long MoT.

cheap tax and to run.

£1,495.

07486 570018.

SUZKI IGNIS

55 reg, automatic, 1 owner from new, 10 months MoT, drives like new, good condition, any trial
£895.
07540 474922.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 BREEZE

S Reg. 5 door. Hatchback. E/W. C/L. PAS. Silver. MoT Nov 17. Radio cassette player. 64,000 miles. Nice tidy car.
£595 ono.
01562 752815.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN

2005 reg, silver.

51,000 miles, long MoT,

Bargain £895.

07913 981460.

cars over £1500

KIA SEDONA LE 3.0 MPV DIESEL

04/54, two owners, roof rails, 60,000 miles, fsh, cam belt replaced, MoT September 2017, RCL, EW, factory dvd, tow bar, privacy windows,

£1,900.

07518 327271 Kidderminster.

LOOK

FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2012, 23,000 miles, 3 door, only used as second car, showroom condition, alloys etc, as new.

£3,100.

07833 076209.

4X4

LANDROVER DISCOVERY TD5 ES PREMIUM

Auto 2002, metallic blue, 1 previous owner, low miles, FSH, MoT, RR Alloys with AT tyres, full electric leather, every extra fitted, genuine tidy vehicle.

£6,650 ono

07971 284856 or

01746 861841.

LOOK

MINI COUPE

1.6, 04 plate.

lady owner.

FSH, MoT.

Mint condition.

£2000.

07516 660557

IMMACULATE

NISSAN MICRA 3 DOOR
2010 Reg.
60,000 miles.
Good MoT.
Immaculate condition.
One owner.
Red.
£2,495.
07486 578439.

NISSAN NOTE

blue, radio, CD, Bluetooth, full service history, 2008 reg 1.4 engine. MoT March 2017, alloy wheels, 105,000 miles, all electric, Air con, ABS,

Very good condition.

£2,000 ono.

07950 727297

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.0

59 plate, red, 3-dr, 51,000 genuine miles, long MoT, very nice condition, 1st to see will buy, absolute bargain.

£2,795 ono

Part exchange may be considered.

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VAUXHALL ASTRA Sportive van, silver, 04 reg, alloy wheels, excellent condition. Bargain £895. 07913 981460.

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Manual & Automatic
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WANTED Clean Used Bikes
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highway-motorcycles.co.uk

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mobile mechanics

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mot's

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PETROL & DIESEL
FREE RE-TESTS
DH AUTOS MOT
Sharrocks Street, Wolverhampton
01902 870250 / 459371

spares/parts

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Parkfield Haulage Ltd of 538, Parkfield Road Wolverhampton WV4 6EN is applying for licence to use 538, Parkfield Road Wolverhampton WV4 6EN as an operating centre for TWELVE goods vehicles and EIGHT trailers and to use Unit 1 Springfield Road Industrial Estate Wolverhampton WV4 6UD as an operating centre for SEVEN goods vechicles and FOUR trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at West Midlands Traffic Area Office, Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

10 Personals

general

CREMATION PLOT Bushbury Crematorium, £800. 07807 172907.

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bbpthetheatre@outlook.com or Facebook bbp.

personal

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The Foxy Lady
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01902 405522

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

FEMALE 55
Looking for Male companion only, for nights in and around Wolverhampton. Must have own car. Genuine replies only.
Box Number P20675 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

PRESENTABLE SINCERE GENTLEMAN
solvent, own home and car, seeks genuine, honest, smart lady, 60 - 72, who enjoys dining, days out, theatre, pleasant company to enjoy life. A.L.A.
Box Number P20677 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE DAD
Aged 45
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Single Moms welcome.
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ClassifiedAds

Graham Taylor on becoming Wolves boss with chairman onathan Hayward

Graham Taylor is awarded the OBE in 2002

Taylor following his appointment as England manager

Taylor signs Paul McGrath and Kent Nielsen at Villa

Intelligent, visionary and breath of fresh air

SPORTING MEMORIES

Russell Youll pays tribute

IT WAS a hot day in early May, 1990, and Villa fans were bouncing. Literally bouncing.

The final game of the season had ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Everton and Villa had finished second in the old First Division behind Liverpool.

The away end at Goodison Park was shaking. It was the first time as a teenage fan I had felt a stand move beneath my feet. I was 18 and giddy with heat, excitement and a few pints at a pub stop just off the M6.

Thousands of Villa fans had made the journey to Merseyside and it was the worst kept secret in football that this was Graham Taylor's goodbye to the claret and blue faithful.

We all knew he would be taking over from Bobby Robson after the World Cup in Italy.

This is the man who had built Watford and taken them all the way from the Fourth Division to the First in five years and capped it with an an FA Cup final at Wembley.

Plunged

Villa, meanwhile, had gone the other way. League champions in 1981, European champions in 1982, they had plunged into the Second Division within five years of that glorious night in Rotterdam.

In the darkest of times of his chairmanship, Doug Ellis made his shrewdest ever move. He recruited Taylor. The new manager was then just 42 and wasted no time in describing the club as 'a shambles' as he walked through the doors of Villa Park.

He was the breath of fresh air all Villa fans had craved. His first season saw Villa promoted back at the first attempt. He brought in David Platt and Alan McInally, while midfielder Andy Gray came in from Crystal Palace as his more famous namesake went out of the door to neighbours Albion.

Taylor later recounted how that farewell moved him to tears. It remains still my greatest memory as a football fan.

Villa finished in second, going up on goal difference ahead of Middlesbrough. The following season, Villa escaped relegation by a single point. But what a season followed.

Taylor signed Paul McGrath from Manchester United and Villa cut a swathe through the First Division, with a classy edge provided by a reborn Gordon Cowans and a rampant Platt. In the end, Villa ended the season nine points behind champions Liverpool but it was a closer race than that.

But when we boarded that bus to Goodison on May 5, 1990, we knew we were saying goodbye to Taylor as Villa boss, although we didn't know then he would return one day for a second spell. When the final whistle blew the players thanked the fans, Taylor applauded the supporters and left the pitch.

But when the Goodison gates opened but not a single Villa fan left. As 'Graham Taylor's claret and blue army' echoed around a stadium devoid of Everton fans, it was clear the Villans would not leave until Taylor returned one final time.

It must have been some 20 minutes after the final whistle when he emerged. I will never forget his hands clasped together in triumph and thanks. Taylor recounted in an interview some years later how that farewell moved him to tears. It remains still my greatest memory as a football fan. For that Graham, I thank you.

Taylor's time at Wolves was fairly brief – he lasted little more than 18 months before he was hounded out by angry supporters and an impatient board. But it was certainly memorable.

It was a huge coup for Wolves to land Taylor in March 1994. Having been vilified and castigated for his role as England boss, Taylor saw it as a chance to resurrect his career – as well as rejuvenate a sleeping giant, backed by Sir Jack Hayward's millions.

Wolves just fell short of the play-offs and then, armed with a warchest of £4.5m, Taylor brought in Tony Daley, Steve Froggatt, Neil Emblen, Don Goodman and John De Wolf.

Four of those five players suffered serious injuries in 1994/95 but Taylor oversaw a truly thrilling campaign. Wolves scored 77 goals, the highest in the league and 10 more than champions Middlesbrough, but conceded 61 (rock-bottom Notts County let in 66).

Injuries, and three 3-3 draws in six games, meant Wolves had to settle for the play-offs again – and Bolton's John McGinlay crushed their dreams.

The next season started badly and Taylor was forced to resign amid supporter protests.

Despite his regrets at not being able to complete the job, he would always speak fondly of Wolves. And those fans (and Jonathan Hayward) who forced him out would concede he departed too soon, especially when watching Taylor take Watford to the top flight in 1999.

Taylor's legacy was laying the foundations for the club's youth scheme and a training ground of their own. He demanded they move to Compton. He also later convinced his Watford protégé Kenny Jackett to take the Wolves job. Another wise decision from a deeply intelligent football visionary.

Taylor, flanked by new signings John de Wolf and Don Goodman at Molineux in 1994

Graham Taylor arrives at Villa Park in 1987. He transformed the club he described as a 'shambles' on arrival

Sam's the master of Oz as trio join PK line-up

WOLVERHAMPTON favourite Sam Masters warmed up for the British speedway season in style after being crowned 2017 Australian Champion.

The 25-year-old was in second place in the standings heading into the fourth and final round at Kurri-Kurri but produced a sensational performance to reach the A Final and pip Justin Sedgmen to the title.

Meanwhile, Magnus Karlsson is set to make a return to Wolverhampton – ten years after he last raced for the club.

The 35-year-old is the latest rider to be confirmed for 'PK - The Final Word' as his older brother Peter stages his farewell meeting at Monmore Green.

The Swede rode for the Parrys International Wolves between 2003 and 2007 and ended his British racing career with Leicester in 2013.

"I thought I'd raced in England for the final time but when Pete asked me to ride in his farewell I couldn't say no," he said.

Karlsson joins fellow Swedish stars Freddie Lindgren and Jacob Thorssell as confirmed starters for the event on Sunday, March 19, from 5pm, which will use a Pairs format.

Lindgren, aged 31, is back with Wolves this season and was the first name to be confirmed.

PK said: "Me and Freddie go back a fairly long way and he was always one rider I definitely wanted there."

Thorssell said: "We have become really good friends away from the track. To be asked to ride in his farewell meeting really means a lot to me."

Westwood homes in on more goals

Dan Westwood

A FORMER schoolboy prospect who once scored goals for fun with Burnley's Andre Gray is now one of the deadliest finishers in the non-league game.

With only half the season gone, Dan Westwood has already plundered 49 goals for title-chasing Wolverhampton Sporting in the West Midlands Premier, surpassing his total for the whole of last season.

His form has alerted a number of National League clubs – and at least one Football League side – to his talents. Westwood played in the same Wolverhampton Schoolboys team as Gray and Sheffield Wednesday's Sam Winnall, and was on the books of both Port Vale and Burton before a crisis of confidence halted his progress.

"It was tough for me at first to get to grips with men's football," he explains. "I was a scholar at Burton but never really settled. I'd always been used to scoring goals and prided myself on it. Once the confidence goes it is hard to get it back."

Westwood trained as a PE teacher after leaving Burton and played Sunday football before making his move into non-league, first with Wolverhampton Casuals and then Sporting Khalsa. It is at Wolverhampton Sporting, however, where he has rediscovered his golden touch.

Just 14 months after joining, he is already closing in on 100 goals for the club. His exploits include netting five consecutive hat-tricks earlier this season, while he bagged his first-ever double hat-trick in last month's 11-0 win over Gornal Athletic. He was still left disappointed, however, after missing a penalty.

"I'm buzzing to have scored so many goals at this stage of the season and I just want to keep going," he said. "I'm happy at Sporting and enjoying my football."

Sellars keen on more EFL Trophy action for charges

WOLVES Under-23 boss Scott Sellars has called for the EFL to continue to allow academy youngsters to take part in the Checkatrade Trophy next season.

Wolves bowed out of the competition after a narrow 2-1 defeat at Swansea, despite taking the lead through Christian Herc.

Premier League and Championship clubs have fielded academy teams this season and the tournament's format has been widely derided with crowds low.

But it has allowed Wolves' talented band of youngsters to flourish in competitive matches.

And Sellars believes were it not for the competition then Connor Ronan, Harry Burgoyne and Morgan Gibbs-White may not have been handed their first-team debuts quite so readily by boss Paul Lambert.

"From our point of view I really hope they carry it on and give us this format again where we can go and play against men, in stadiums, regularly, and help teach these lads how to become footballers," Sellars said.

"In this country we spend millions of pounds in terms of facilities and programmes and coaching but until this year I don't think we've delivered a games programme that's fit for purpose.

"It's been a fantastic tournament for the experience of playing against men and in a real competition," he added. "This has been a fantastic tournament to say actually, there are a lot of good young players around.

"If we give these boys exposure to men's football I think they can have the same development pathway that they do abroad."

Title race will go down to the wire

THE inaugural Redbox Signmakers Beacon Championship title race is set to go down to the wire after Dudley Dynamo had to settle for a point in their penultimate clash.

Dynamo, lying in second place at the start of the day, were held by fifth placed **Old Cross Athletic**.

Athletic led 1-0 at the break and kept Dynamo at bay until Joe Lawley's crucial equaliser on the hour.

The outcome enabled Dynamo to regain top spot, by just a point from **Bushbury Rovers**, whose final league fixture at home to **Pendeford** was one of three Beacon games postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. Dynamo's remaining match is against lowly Shere Punjab on a date to be confirmed.

Fourth place **Pensnett Panthers** remain in contention for honours after inflicting a 9-2 drubbing on basement outfit **Wyrley Targaryens**. Pensnett have two games remaining and are now just four points down on Dynamo.

Consolation

Wyrley took a shock first half lead with a long range effort from Ricky Gillard, before Pensnett led by the odd goal in three at the interval.

But it was a different story in the second half as Pensnett romped home with Ryan Cartwright notching four, Jay Willis three, Steve Jeavons and Ian Burton. Karado Williams responded with a consolation second for Wyrley.

Sixth place **Claregate Rangers** were denied by the woodwork in the early stages of their fixture against visiting **Whitmore Reans**, only to fall behind to a Saman Sorchi goal on 20 minutes.

However, before the break, Claregate stormed back to take a 3-1 advantage through Nathan Garrett, Rodney Williams and Danny Rai, then Jay Rumbold rounded off the scoring.

In the weekend's final fixture, **Codsall Station** climbed three places to seventh after hitting **Pensnett Youth** 11-1, with Steve Bills bagging four. He received good support from Liam Davies, Robin Davies (both two), Ryan Blanchette, John Piper and Sam Pickering.

New signing David Hunt was Pensnett's sole scorer on his debut.

Wrestlers get ready to rumble

British champion Andy Hendrix, of Halesowen, is among the entrants at the Pro-Wrestling Live event

PROFESSIONAL wrestlers will take part in a 'Rileys Rumble' later this month – hours before American giants WWE stage their flagship battle royal event.

World Wrestling Entertainment stage their 30th Royal Rumble at the Alamodome in Texas on Sunday, January 29.

Box Office purchasers in the UK will watch proceedings on pay-per-view from the early hours of Monday. Rileys Sports Bar, on Broad Street Wolverhampton, is staying open to screen the event after holding a bill of its own.

Promoter and grappler Matt Powell, from Walsall, aka Dad Dog Maxx, will bring Pro Wrestling Live to Rileys. A full wrestling show will be topped by their own 30-man over the top rope 'Royal Rumble,' where 28 competitors, including British champion Andy Hendrix, of Halesowen, will join the fray 30 seconds at a time after two have started the bout.

It starts at 7pm. Entry is £6, or £10 VIP and a family of four at £20. Call 07404 279 880.

There is no extra charge for those who have paid to watch the PWL to stay and watch the WWE Rumble. Alternatively, entry to the WWE Rumble is £5 from 10pm. Over-18s only.

Strictly good fun as players take to oche

'STRICTLY Come Darting' is the theme for the next darts exhibition at a Wolverhampton pub.

Wayne Mardle and Dmitri van den Bergh will take to the oche at the Cleveland Arms Sports Bar, Stowheath Lane, on Wednesday, February 8.

Mardle, dubbed 'Hawaii 501', reached four PDC World Championship semi-finals between 2004 and 2008. In the 2008 quarter-finals, he came from 3-0 sets down to beat Phil Taylor 5-4, but then lost to Kirk Shepherd.

VIP packages are £25 including priority seating, a buffet and a professional photograph with Mardle and van den Burgh.

Tickets are available online at www.clevelandarms.com or www.sportstalkevents.co.uk or call the pub on 01902 451 021.

Wilson is at the double for young Wolves

WOLVES have sold out their 1,640 allocation for their first competitive trip to Burton Albion on February 4.

There are still around 500 remaining of the 1,537 allocated for Saturday's trip to Norwich.

Meanwhile, Donovan Wilson bagged a second-half brace as Wolves Under-23s eased past their Blackburn Rovers counterparts 3-0 at the New Bucks Head on Monday night.

Sylvain Deslandes gave Wolves a first-half lead after Nicu Carnat's free-kick had struck the post.

But the second half belonged to substitute Wilson. He came on to double Wolves' advantage from the edge of the box after a Morgan Gibbs-White lay-off and then added his side's third from 12 yards.

The result moved Wolves up to fourth in Premier League 2.

Sport

Thanks, Graham – farewell to a football gentleman

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Sir Jack statue months from unveiling

Sir Jack Hayward

A STATUE of Sir Jack Hayward will be unveiled in the next few months, Wolves have revealed.

The statue was commissioned a year ago and is due to be built near the subway entrance at the top of Molineux Street, overlooking the stadium.

Wolves will fund the vast majority of the £250,000 cost. Fans were invited to donate when the project was announced but so far only £17,000 has been raised, including gate receipts from the pre-season Swansea friendly. A special plaque to reflect the contribution of supporters is due to be erected alongside the statue.

Sculptor James Butler is working on the Sir Jack piece, having already created Billy Wright and Stan Cullis statues.

He has worked closely with Sir Jack's family on a preferred design. A committee of supporters was set up to oversee the project.

The group's chairman Kevin Rogers, CEO of Paycare, said: "The statue is progressing well and we're looking forward to the unveiling, which will hopefully be around summer 2017."

Contractors are currently investigating two potential locations for the statue in the area by where the old Wanderer pub used to be housed.

In a statement, the club said: "Wolves have worked close with City of Wolverhampton Council on the project and are confident the statue will provide a fitting and lasting memorial to a much-loved figure both at the football club and across Wolverhampton and beyond."

Nuzon first capture of the window

HAITI international striker Duckens Nazon has become Wolves' first signing of the January transfer window – with Ola John the first departure.

Nazon, aged 22, has signed a six-month contract and goes straight into the under-23 squad.

Wolves have the option of extending Nazon's stay by a season should he impress.

The France-born frontman joins as a free agent, but has recently been playing for Kerala Blasters in the Indian Super League.

Duckens Nazon

"I'm very happy, it's an amazing thing for me," he said. "I've played in India for three months and now I've come back to fulfil my dream of playing in England. Wolves is a very big club in this country – I'm so happy. The atmosphere around the club is very good, all of the guys have been very welcoming."

Nazon came to prominence playing for Haiti in the 2015 CONCACAF Gold Cup, scoring both of Haiti's goals as they reached the quarter-finals.

He began his career in France, playing for Roye-Noyon and Olympique Saint-Quentin at French amateur level.

Nazon then moved to Ligue 2 side Laval, scoring three in 14 before joined the Blasters last summer.

John's expected departure has also been confirmed. The winger played just 27 minutes of Championship football for Wolves and has moved to Deportivo La Coruna, technically on loan from Wolves as part of a 'sub loan' agreement. He will return to Benfica in the summer. And winger Connor Hunte, has had his contract cancelled.

It's Bastia day as Prince's reign at Wolves now ends

SUMMER signing Prince Oniangue has left Wolves to join French side Bastia on loan for the rest of the season.

The 28-year-old midfielder moved to Molineux from Reims in a £2million deal in August, signing a four-year contract, but has not featured for Wolves since their 1-0 defeat to Brighton in October.

Oniangue has made 11 appearances, nine of them starts, and scored against Burton Albion and Wigan Athletic.

Sporting director Kevin Thelwell said Oniangue had been unable to force his way back into the team since returning from injury.

"The deal has been done for him to join Bastia on loan until the end of the season, and then we will be able to revisit the situation and see what the future holds," he said.

Cameron Borthwick-Jackson is expected to have his loan contract cancelled early, if a deal can be reached with parent club Manchester United. The same applies to midfielder Joao Teixeira, who is on loan from Benfica for the season.

Wolves will also look to move on Dutch misfit Paul Gladon.

TAYLOR-MADE TO PAY TRIBUTE

Wolves 1 Aston Villa 0

AS substitute Jon Dadi Bodvarsson chased down Villa keeper Sam Johnstone to block his clearance late on, like a boisterous Yorkshire Terrier harassing a nervous postman, you knew Graham Taylor would be looking down smiling.

This wasn't the gripping, action-packed goal-laden thriller that would have befitted Taylor's one full season at Molineux.

But it was an occasion and an atmosphere worthy of the great man, *writes Tim Spiers*.

And you can just envisage Taylor's trademark toothy grin as the Icelandic cult hero harried the Villa backline, defending ably from the front and getting the crowd on its feet in the closing minute. Because that's what defined this very welcome Wolves victory – hard work, organisation and professionalism, three of Taylor's staples.

Confidence

New boss Paul Lambert, however, is responsible for the desire, enthusiasm and hunger he has instilled in his players. The confidence is there, too.

Some of the football Wolves played in the opening 20 minutes was a joy to watch. They played with freedom and fun – Joe Mason making a very positive impact in the number 10 role – and he made up for his horror miss at Hillsborough by becoming the first Wolves striker to score since August 20. In fact this was Wolves' first clean sheet at Molineux since August 16 and their first victory over Villa at Molineux since 1978.

For 18 months Wolves' XI has tended to pick itself. To have more than 18 players putting their hand up and demanding to be picked is a novelty indeed.

Will it become the norm? Can Wolves impressive recent performances extend to a prolonged run of positive results?

The way Lambert is going, you'd be more surprised if it didn't. Taylor would certainly approve of that.

Goalscorer Joe Mason celebrates his winning goal with Ivan Cavaleiro

Mason's relief over finding net again

MATCH-WINNER Joe Mason spoke of his relief at finding the net for Wolves – especially so soon after his horror miss at Sheffield Wednesday.

Mason missed an open goal from a couple of yards out at Hillsborough but was Wolves' hero at Molineux on Saturday when the netted the only goal after 15 minutes. It was the 25-year-old's first Wolves goal since August 20.

Mason said: "With the chance I had a few weeks ago it was nice to get a goal as soon as possible to get that off my mind.

"It was really nice to see it hit the back of the net. It's been a while since I scored. That'll do me wonders."

Mason had missed two months of action with a hernia problem but is delighted to be back.

"I was flagging a bit towards the end but every game I'm feeling better. I'm not 100 per cent but I'm not far away," Mason added. "I was happy how it went. Hopefully we go on a run now and keep that momentum going."

Heroes hit the bar with city reunion

THREE of the team that took Wolves into the Premier League for the first time will be reunited at a city pub next week.

It's now the 14th year since Dave Jones's side reached the promised land through a 3-0 win over Sheffield United in the Championship play-off final at the Millennium Stadium.

Matt Murray, Lee Naylor and Paul Butler have all retired since and will relive their playing days at the Cleveland Arms Sports Bar, Stowheath Lane, on Thursday.

Murray, Naylor and Butler were all in the starting line-up for the game, which took the club into the now re-branded top flight after an 18-year absence.

Goalkeeper Murray made a memorable save in the 48th minute, pushing away Michael Brown's penalty, which had been conceded by Butler.

Murray would make his only-ever Premier League appearance on the opening day of the following season, a 5-1 defeat at Blackburn Rovers. A horrendous run of injuries plagued the rest of his career and he called time in August 2010. Still aged just 35, he's now a football pundit for Sky Sports.

Butler, a £1million Wolves buy from Sunderland in January 2001, struck up a partnership with former Black Cats team-mate Jody Craddock in 2003/04.

He left Molineux the following summer after failing to agree a new contract and played for Leeds, Milton Keynes Dons and Chester before hanging up his boots in 2009.

Naylor was an ever-present of Wolves' first Premier League campaign and joined Celtic in 2006.

Standard entry tickets are £10, either in advance or on the door. Visit www.cleveland arms.com or www.sportstalk events.co.uk or call 01902 451 021.

Five-star Wulfs send rivals to foot of table

Old Wulfs 5 FC Stafford 1

FC Stafford's season hit a low as they dropped to the foot of the West Midlands League Division One table with a comprehensive 5-1 defeat at Old Wulfrunians.

Alex Mackay, returning to the Stafford starting line-up, was impressive all game down the right hand side and helped give his side the lead.

He stole the ball from the full-back before his accurate cross was turned in by Ryan Brown.

However, it was all Wulfs from that point as they cruised to score five goals themselves.

★★★

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Fostering for Wolverhampton
Make a Difference

Let fostering make your house a home

Carl Bradburn has been a foster carer for 18 months.

Fostering for Wolverhampton helps make my house a home as it enriches our lives and the foster children bring us so much joy. I have five children of my own plus a foster child, and it keeps the house young. We do more as a family, like going to theme parks, and our five children love having younger brothers and sisters around.

We have fostered children from different cultural backgrounds, which has enriched my children's knowledge and tolerance of other religions and beliefs, and this is important.

Since we have been fostering we have made millions of family memories. The best one was when we all went to the Safari Park and the foster child saw lions, tigers, giraffes and hippos for the first time. The wonderment on their face was priceless as they had never been anywhere like that before. When we go out my children look after the foster children; you see them taking them down slides and in the ball pond at play areas. It keeps my children younger for longer too which is nice.

The house can be very noisy but it is not a house, it's a home. We want to give these children a sound foundation to go on in life and that's why we foster.

It is enriching for us all to give something back and provide a child who has not had a sense of belonging with a loving family. The people in a house make a home – it's all about making memories.

Meal times in our house are like Hogwarts as there can be eight or nine people sat around the table with a high chair thrown in! It's great to watch and observe the interactions between the children and how our children treat the foster children like one of the family. It is always noisy and chaotic but wonderful and friendly and a fantastic experience. I can't put it into words!

Fostering has made me realise that I want to help young people less fortunate and create a stable family environment for them so that they can go on and live their lives.

Each child has brought something else to our family but they are all happy memories. It can be testing and there can be sleepless nights but you forget about this as it is just so fantastic when they trust you and you see the happiness on their faces.

If anyone is thinking about it please just pick up the phone – your lives will definitely change for the better.

If you'd like to make a difference, come and meet the Fostering for Wolverhampton team at one of our information events (see timetable on back page). **You can also visit wolverhampton.gov.uk/fostering, call 01902 551133 or search Fostering for Wolves on Facebook.**

Fostering for Wolverhampton

Make a Difference

Emma Goodwin has been a foster carer for eight years.

Fostering for Wolverhampton helps make my house a home by bringing love, joy, happiness and great pleasure through looking after someone who gives us a great deal of enjoyment. I've had one long-term placement but also had baby respite placements. As my children are getting older the family dynamics of having a young child and babies allows us to all be together, look after each other and work together to keep someone who needs us safe and well.

My children love having a foster child in the house – they see our little boy as their brother and have grown up over the years together.

We go on holidays together, day trips together and although my children are getting older, it is all still about the family dynamics in the house. Fostering has given them more patience and understanding and if there are times when it is quite difficult, they give us support. I'd love to take the whole family to Disneyland and have the experience together, have a great time and share those special memories.

My house is always busy and full of children but that's how I love it and that's how it will always be in the future! If I'm on the phone, my foster child sometimes sneaks off to cause mischief with my youngest son; they can be boisterous but that's boys and that's what they do, but I love them to bits and I wouldn't change it for the world.

I look back over the years and see how my foster child was when he came to live with us and how he is now and the change is remarkable and I am really proud of him.

You can have good and bad days, but the good far outweigh the bad. If anyone wants to foster I'd say go for it – it is a rewarding and fantastic job to do.

Just make that phone call and speak to one of the Fostering for Wolverhampton team. You will love it!

David Whatton has been a foster carer for four months.

Fostering for Wolverhampton helps to make our house a home by bringing young people back into the family. I've got three grown up children and having an eight year old really does change the dynamics of the family.

For example Father Christmas becomes very important again – the excitement on Christmas morning and being woken up early is going back to how it used to be when my own children were young. It is also great for my own children as they can be part of it and they really help the young person living with us to have as normal a life as possible.

We've had no issues blending age groups. My parents fostered when I was young – I grew up around foster children from the age of five. Our family has had young people around for a long time and my children couldn't wait for us to start fostering and bring young people in – it has been a tremendous experience.

The excitement that young people bring into the family is absolutely superb. Trips out to farms, play barns and other similar things – the grown up kids love having an excuse to do this again too!

The young girl who lives with us now absolutely idolises my daughter, looks up to her as a big sister and they have got a tremendous relationship. She thinks my sons are wonderful and she can't wait to go out and do things with them such as swimming, learning to ride a bike and all the things everyone does in their own families; it is just the same except someone new has come to join us!

It can be interesting trying to get children to go to bed at the right time, trying to get homework done and there are challenges, but it is all about helping young people develop and get the best possible start in life. All of the children coming into care will have experienced difficult circumstances in their lives and it's about helping them move forward positively.

My wife and I had been talking about fostering for a long time but my work circumstances only allowed us to do this in the last few months. We haven't looked back since! What I have been really pleased with is the amount of support we've received from the Fostering for Wolverhampton team and the training on offer.

It is is different from bringing up your own children and that support has made a big difference to our ability to make a difference to these children.

Fostering for Wolverhampton myth buster!

Are you inspired after reading our foster carers' stories? We hear lots of people say "I'd love to foster but..." so we've explored some of the common myths around fostering and hopefully you will realise it's not as scary as you might think!

You have to be young to foster
False. We have fantastic carers of all ages, from those in their twenties up to their sixties. You just need to be over 21, have a spare room for a child to have their own space and want to make a difference to the lives of local children. The most important thing is that you have the time, commitment, motivation and energy to care for children.

You have to own your home to foster
False. Foster carers do not need to own their own home or have a big house. As long as the house is safe and secure, it doesn't matter if you own it or rent privately or through social housing. If you rent just check with your landlord that they are happy for you to foster.

You can't work and foster
False. You can combine fostering with work, depending on the flexibility of your job and being able to meet the needs of the children in your care. Fostering is a profession and offers career progression and specialisms. We recognise the skills, training and commitment of foster carers by paying a fee in addition to allowances to cover the cost of caring for the child.

You have to be married to foster
False. You can be single, living with your partner, married, straight or from the LGBT community. The important thing is that you have a range of life skills that you can bring to the role of a foster carer. It is also helpful if you have a supportive network of family and friends, similar to any parenting role.

You need to have your own children to foster
False. You do not have to have your own children. We just need people who can offer a loving, stable and supportive environment for local children as full training will be given. You will also have the full support of your supervising social worker to help you through any situations you are unsure of.

You can't foster if you have a dog
False. Having pets does not prevent you from fostering, in fact we know that they are a big part of your family. As every animal is different, your pets will be assessed as part of the process of becoming a foster carer, taking into account factors such as their temperament and behaviour.

You can't foster if you have a disability
False. Part of the assessment process will be a medical check through your GP and they will advise if your disability is going to affect how you care for a child. If you are able to meet the everyday needs of children within your home, your disability should not stand in your way of becoming a foster carer.

Fostering is the same whether it is through your local authority or an agency
False. Local authorities are the only organisations that place children and we always try to place children with our own carers first. We want to keep children close to family, friends and school during this unsettling time. We only look to external placements when we have explored all options to meet the child's needs from our own carers. This means that our foster carers are most likely to get regular placements. Fostering for Wolverhampton is also a not-for-profit service; our priority is to keep children safe. We are also committed to offering our foster carers the best support and training to be able to provide the best possible care for local children including 24/7 telephone support.

Fostering for Wolverhampton

Make a Difference

If you'd like to make a difference, come and meet the Fostering for Wolverhampton team at one of our information events (see timetable below). **You can also visit wolverhampton.gov.uk/fostering, call 01902 551133 or search Fostering for Wolves on Facebook.**

Fostering information sessions timetable

Monday 23rd January	Tuesday 24th January	Wednesday 25th January	Thursday 26th January	Friday 27th January
Queen Square, Wolverhampton 10am – 3pm	**WV Active, Bilston-Bert Williams** 10am – 4pm	**Bentley Bridge Retail Park, Wednesfield (outside Boots)** 10am – 4pm	**Wolverhampton Central Library** 10am – 4pm	**Waitrose, Penn Road** 10am – 3.30pm
		Molineux Stadium, Suite 20 6.30pm – 8pm		

Visit wolverhampton.gov.uk/fostering **fosteringforwolves** **#fosteringforwolves**

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